

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held November 4, 2024, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Pete Konidis, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and a representative from VFW 4820 then led the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Borne then asked for reports and City Manager Kevin Carruth informed Council that the air conditioning in the chambers is out again and is expected to be repaired Wednesday of this week.

Mayor Borne then asked for citizen comments and Mellissa Hoyt of 4648 Garfield Avenue addressed Council regarding the agenda item concerning the Fire Protection Ordinance. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she would like to move into a bigger building but the way the Ordinance is written now she would have to put in a fire alarm system and she is hoping Council approves the changes recommended by the Fire Marshal so she does not have to install that system.

Ken Lofton of 3100 Eugenia Lane informed Council that since they last met their Senior Vice Commander Tina Martinez gave a Veteran's Participation Report on women in military service at the Port Arthur City Council Meeting. VFW 4820 will be having a Veteran's Day Program at Veteran's Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2024. Mr. Lofton also stated that on Veteran's Day they will have an event at 10 a.m. at the City Hall in Nederland and Oak Bluff Memorial Cemetery at 11 a.m. Mr. Lofton also stated that they will be receiving a Proclamation from the City of Nederland.

There were no other citizen comments.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2024, AND OCTOBER 21, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Councilmember Paul Oliver moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024, and October 21, 2024, City Council minutes as written and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2024, PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that the minutes have been received.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT RENEWAL FOR A GAME ROOM AT 6850 25TH ST.: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on establishing a date for a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Specific Use Permit renewal for a game room at 6850 25th St. and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Councilmember Konidis amended his previous motion to include December 2, 2024, at 5 p.m. and Councilmember Dugas seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2024-07 ADOPTING A COVERED APPLICATIONS AND PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY POLICY PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 1893: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on Resolution 2024-07 adopting a covered applications and prohibited technology policy pursuant to Senate Bill 1893 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that this Resolution would make the City compliant with the Senate Bill 1893 which was passed in the Legislative Session by the State of Texas. This Senate Bill affects all State Agencies and local subdivisions of the State which includes Cities requirements to remove TikTok from all City devices and prohibits its use on City networks. City Manager Kevin Carruth then stated that there should not be any installed-on City phones but some people use the City Wi-Fi and this prohibits them from having it on personal devices if using City Wi-Fi. Councilmember Konidis asked about Police Officers that have to use their personal devices and City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that there is a clause stated that Police can use that application if it is for a work-related purpose. Mayor Borne asked if there is a cost with the filtering process and Mr. Carruth stated that there is not at this time but that could change down the road. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2024-26 AMENDING THE CITY OF GROVES CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 10 – FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION, ARTICLE I, WITH CERTAIN CHANGES INCLUDING REMOVING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR PERMITS AND REGISTRATION, ADDING A RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY INSPECTION FEE, ADDING A DEFINITION OF FALSE ALARM, REMOVING CERTAIN LOCAL AMENDMENTS, AND REMOVING REDUNDANT PROVISIONS: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on Ordinance 2024-26 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Fire Marshal Washburn explained to Council that he basically cleaned up our Ordinance. Marshal Washburn then explained why he recommends the removal of

registration for contractors, penalty for violation of the fire code, definition of false alarm, removal local amendment regarding adding the square footage of multiple buildings on the same piece of land. Mr. Washburn also informed Council about repealing the requirement of commercial buildings 2,000 square feet or larger having to have fire alarm systems and adding parking presumptions. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON CASTING THE BALLOT FOR THE JEFFERSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to deliberate and act on casting the ballot for the Jefferson Central Appraisal District Board of Directors and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that there are 54 ballots that the City is able to cast in this election. Mr. Carruth also stated that there are 6 nominees and Council can divvy up the votes however it sees fit but staff did give a recommendation of 11 votes to Tim Funchess, 0 votes to Eugene Landry, 11 votes to Kenneth Marks, 11 votes to Lauren Williams Mason, 11 votes to Robert Thewman, and 10 votes to Mary Wycoff. There were no further questions and Council approved the Resolution as written. Motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF GROVES PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO UTILIZE A PORTION OF THE CITY'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to deliberate and act on authorizing the Mayor and Public Works Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Groves Public Works Department to utilize a portion of the City's American Rescue Plan Act Funds for beautification of the City and Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth informed Council that after we complete the Sewer Plant Project with our ARPA Funds there will be about \$109,612 remaining so we have to obligate that money by the end of this calendar year or we will have to turn that money back over to the government. Mr. Carruth then stated that the U.S. Treasury issued some guidance that allows us to do an MOU with one of our departments so we can obligate that money and meet that requirement. The City is proposing to do that with Public Works to utilize that \$109,612 along with the \$100,000 that we already have budgeted to jump start our substandard building demolition program. Mr. Carruth stated that we could probably get at least 20 dangerous buildings torn down. Councilmember Dugas asked if we actually have 20 dangerous buildings and Mr. Carruth stated we already have 11 and

Don is working on more for next month. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$85,496.40 as follows:

1. Chameleon Industries	Polymer for water plant.	\$32,938.40
2. Citibank	September 2024 purchasing cards.	\$5,252.96
3. City of Port Arthur	Landfill sludge & disposal 8/26/24 – 9/25/24.	\$18,005.00
4. PVS DX, INC	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	\$11,157.00
5. Republic Services	Collection of commercial dumpsters September 2024.	\$9,893.04
6. Zone Ind.	New pump with eradicator plate for dump station.	\$8,250.00

Councilmember Dugas made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$85,496.40 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked about the purchase cards and Mr. Carruth stated that these act as a credit card. Mayor Borne asked if the dump station pump is for the station that is at Public Works for the trucks and Mr. Carruth stated it is. There were no further questions. Motion passed unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN:

- A. SECTION 551.071 (1) (A) – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY WHEN THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY SEEKS THE ADVICE OF ITS ATTORNEY ABOUT PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION.
- B. SECTION 551.072 – DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY.
- C. SECTION 551.074 (A) (1) – PERSONNEL MATTERS TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE, INTERIM

JUDGE, AND MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:39 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:29 p.m.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MIKE SIMON AS THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF GROVES: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to deliberate and act on the reappointment of Mike Simon as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Groves and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Simon if he accepts and Mr. Simon stated he did. Motion passed unanimously.

DELIBERATE AND ACT ON THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARK DEROUEN AS THE RELIEF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF GROVES: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to deliberate and act on the reappointment of Mark DeRouen as the relief Municipal Court Judge for the City of Groves and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked Mr. DeRouen if he accepts and Mr. DeRouen stated he did. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne wished Councilmember Oliver and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams a happy birthday. Mayor Borne then adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



Mayor Borne

ATTEST:



City Clerk

