

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held July 1, 2024, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas and Councilmember Pete Konidis in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. Ken Lofton from the local VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

DELIBERATE AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then called for reports and Mr. Ken Lofton from the local VFW 4820 gave a report on the Korean War Armistice Agreement. Mr. Lofton informed Council that July 27, 2024 will be the 71st anniversary of the signing of the Armistice Agreement. The Korean war began on June 25, 1950, and ended on July 27, 1953. There were no further reports.

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

HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON NEWGEN UTILITY RATE ANALYSIS AND POSSIBLE WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES FOR FY 2024 - 2025:

Councilmember Pete Konidis made a motion to hear and deliberate on NewGen utility rate analysis and possible water and wastewater rates for FY 2024 -2025 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that he will go over two revised slides from NewGen. Mr. Carruth stated that the volumetric charge for 10,001 gallons and above would change to \$9.00 per gallon and the minimum charge for commercial water and sewer would go to \$31.00. Mr. Carruth then stated that the bottom line dollar impact would be about \$124,444 per year which includes the projected decrease in consumption due to higher rates that Matthew discussed last meeting. Mr. Carruth also stated that he was surprised that the dollar amount wasn't more since we are talking about doubling the base rate and increasing the volume metric on the water side. Mr. Carruth then stated that tells you we have more smaller businesses than we do larger businesses.

Mayor Borne asked if these projections are just for the first year and Mr. Carruth stated it is and that NewGen is still working on the remaining four years of the rate plan. Councilmember Dugas asked when we would have the updated overall increase from NewGen and Mr. Carruth stated they were waiting to see if Council had anymore updates. Mayor Borne stated that he is happy with the changes that were made and doesn't think we need any more changes. Councilmember Oliver thinks

we are heading in the right direction. Mr. Carruth reminded Council that we can reevaluate the rate every year like we always do. Councilmember Dugas asked if the wastewater is going to be \$9.00 but it was explained to her that the \$9.00 was the volumetric rate for over 10,000 gallons. Councilmember Dugas then asked if we are looking to increase the garbage rates and Mr. Carruth stated that as of now in the draft budget there is no increase but that could change in the final draft. There were no further questions and Mayor Borne stated that no action was needed for this item.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$90,011.37 as follows:

1. Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	\$35,416.00
2. Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and diesel for May 2024.	\$20,384.33
3. Municipal H ² O	Annual EPA RMP compliance service fee.	\$6,000.00
4. PVS DX, INC	Chlorine for Water Plant.	\$6,861.
5. Republic Services	May 2024 Commercial Dumpster Pickup.	\$10,035.37
6. Republic Services	Sludge disposal May 2024.	\$11,314.07

Councilmember Dugas made a motion to approve the invoice list for July 1, 2024 and Councilmember Konidis seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Council comments. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas wanted to remind everyone that Bella Inks re grand opening is tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. City Manager Kevin Carruth want to remind everyone that Thursday, July 4th is a holiday so trash will run Friday the 5th. There were no further comments.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

