

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held December 9, 2019 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Brad Bailey, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Chris Borne, Councilmember Kyle Hollier, and Councilmember Karen Theis in attendance. Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Councilmember Hollier led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Councilmember Hollier moved to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2019 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Badon seconded. Mayor Bailey asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bailey asked for citizen comments and there were none. Mayor Bailey asked for reports and Utilities Superintendent Michael Tentrup gave a presentation on Solid Waste/Greenwaste Operation Changes (copy attached). Mr. Tentrup explained that in the past the City's greenwaste was chipped and sold as fuel for area papermills, with the cost of the chipping being offset when it was sold. However, with the cost of natural gas now being lower, the papermills are using natural gas to fuel their operations. Many of the companies that chip greenwaste are no longer doing so, which has impacted the handling of the City's greenwaste. Mr. Tentrup stated that although the City will continue to look for options in the handling of greenwaste in the future it is addressing the current problem at this time, which includes limiting the amount of greenwaste collected weekly at each household in the City. Mr. Sosa stated that the information presented would be put on the City's website and Facebook page.

Mayor Bailey noted that there were no items for consideration.

**INVOICES:** City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$105,188.29 as follows:

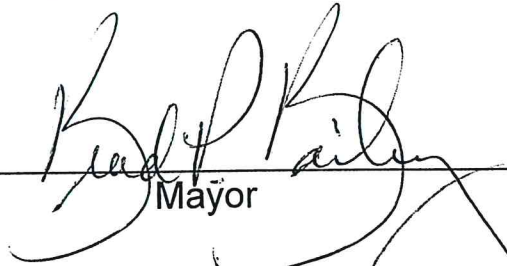
Bluemoon Laundry & AC	Replacement extractor for cleaning bunker gear – Fire Department.	6,202.00
Brenntag	Chemicals for water treatment.	24,649.50
CDW Government City of Port Arthur Core and Main	Microsoft Office software (35 @ \$315.35) Partial October and November 2019 landfill.	11,037.25 20,100.40
	Inventory supplies for repairs and installation of water service.	8,495.50
GTS Technology	New computers to support Windows 10 (43 @ \$538.33 each).	23,148.19

Jefferson Co. Treas.	November 5, 2019 joint election expenses.	6,347.45
SHI Govt. Solutions	Data storage	5,208.00

Councilmember Borne moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$105,188.29 and Councilmember Badon seconded. Mayor Bailey asked for discussion. Councilmember Theis asked about the software being purchased and Mr. Sosa explained that some of the City's computers will no longer support the current operations as of the first of the year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bailey asked for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Hollier reported that he had noticed an increase in people selling food from vehicles and felt that it was unfair and could hurt the business of food establishments who have restaurants and pay property taxes, etc. Councilmember Hollier also reminded the attendees that the drainage report is readily available on the City's website. Councilmember Borne stated that citizens can still call and be put on the list for drainage improvements.

There was no further business and Mayor Bailey adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

# **SOLID WASTE**

Greenwaste Operation Changes

## **PREVIOUS OPERATION**

- Dry trash and greenwaste were disposed of at separate locations
  - Dry trash was delivered to the landfill
  - Greenwaste was delivered to the site at the dead-end of Georgia
- Greenwaste was ground into mulch then sold to the paper mills for fuel
- Cost of grinding was subsidized by the revenue received from the fuel price



## **CURRENT PROBLEM**

- Price of natural gas has continued to fall
  - This has caused the paper mills to shift fuel sources and no longer use mulch
  - Value of mulch has dropped exponentially due to huge increase in supply
  - June 2018 = \$22/ton, June 2019 = \$7/ton, December 2019 = No value
- No option to sell mulch has caused the grinding industry to virtually cease
  - Companies have shut down mulching operations or completely dissolved
- Only grinding operations are disaster related which are ultimately funded by FEMA
  - Too cost prohibitive for regular operations
- Price of grinding without this subsidy has become cost prohibitive

## **DISPOSAL COSTS**

- Landfill charge is \$6.20 per cubic yard
- Trucks are able to reduce volume of greenwaste approximately 3:1
- Grinding resulted in a 90% reduction
- Current residential monthly charge is \$19.96
  - Includes weekly garbage collection and 2 cubic yards of dry trash
  - Greenwaste has been historically included in collection due to ease of disposal
- Maintaining the same collection practice will cost an additional ~\$30,000 per month
  - Each residential account would need to increase \$4.50 / month

## **OPERATIONAL PROBLEM**

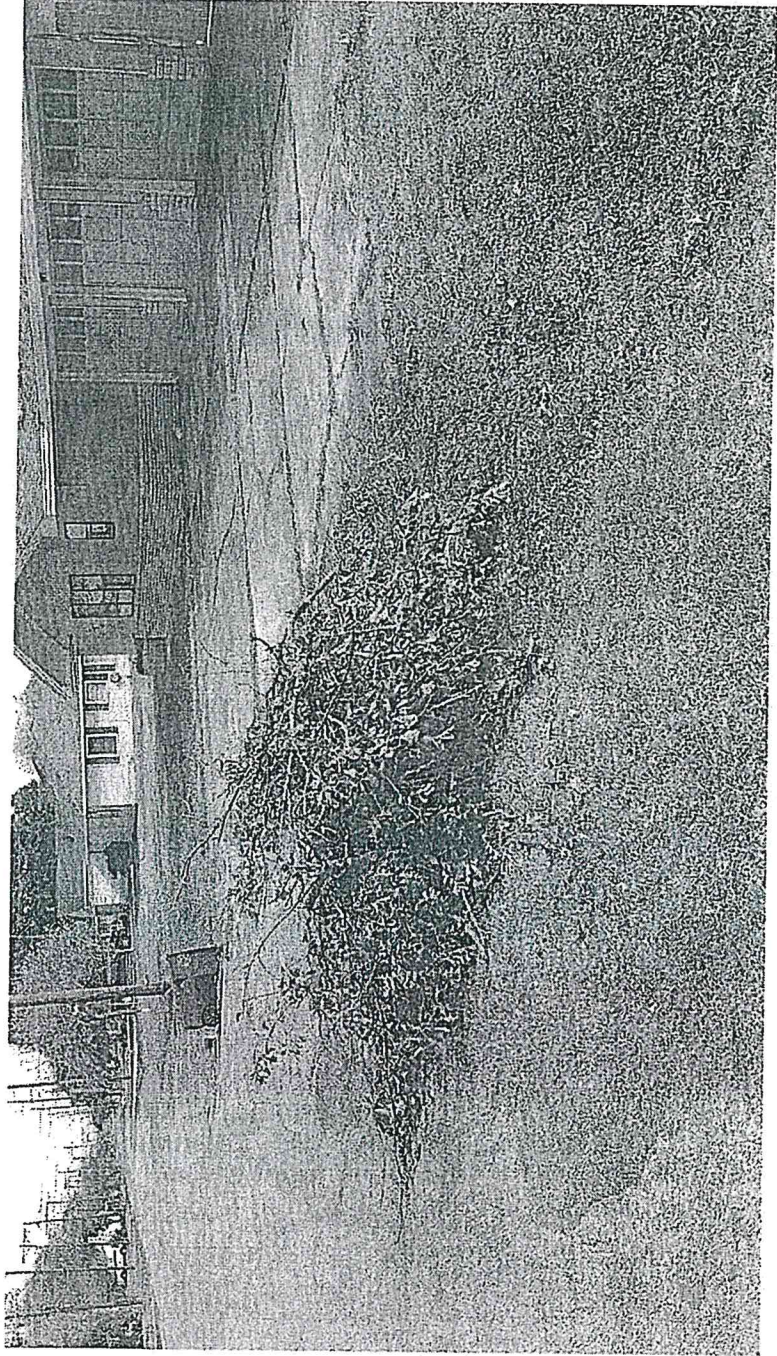
- Greenwaste will be hauled to the landfill with the dry trash
- Will increase the number of loads each truck makes to the landfill
- Landfill closes operation at 3:30PM so time is an issue
- Will increase landfill monthly costs
- Will slow collection on the route due to longer turnaround time @ landfill

## **OPERATIONAL CHANGES**

- Enforcement of Sec 12-12 of Ordinances
  - Requires tree trimmers to receive a no cost permit for each address
    - Permit requires tree trimmer to be bonded / insured
    - Protects homeowner by ensuring contractor is legitimate
  - Requires tree trimmers to remove all greenwaste within 5 days
- Limiting homeowner generated greenwaste to 2 cubic yards per week
  - Ensures that trucks are able to remain on schedule
  - Limits landfill cost increase
- Will begin to empty current greenwaste pile as conditions allow
- Will also continue to search for alternative disposal options

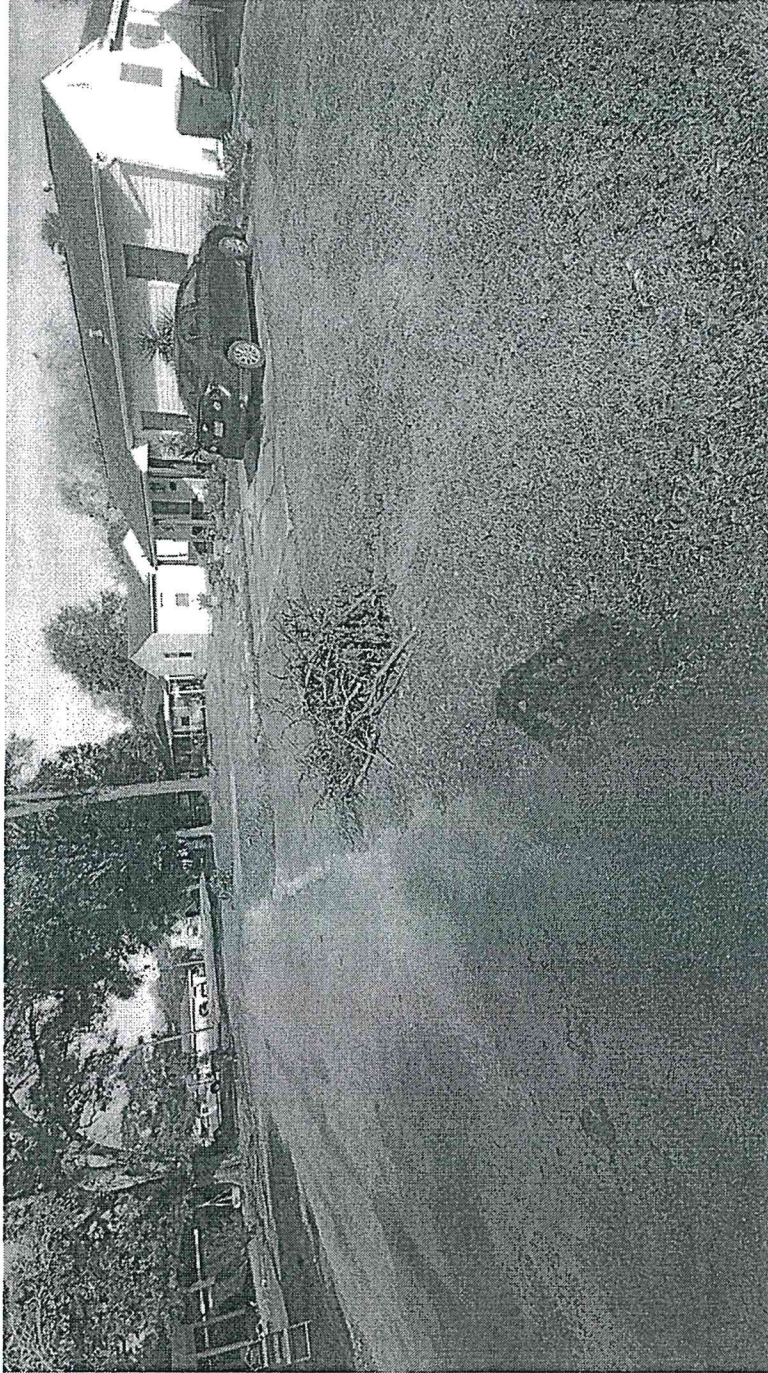


# ACCEPTABLE VOLUME



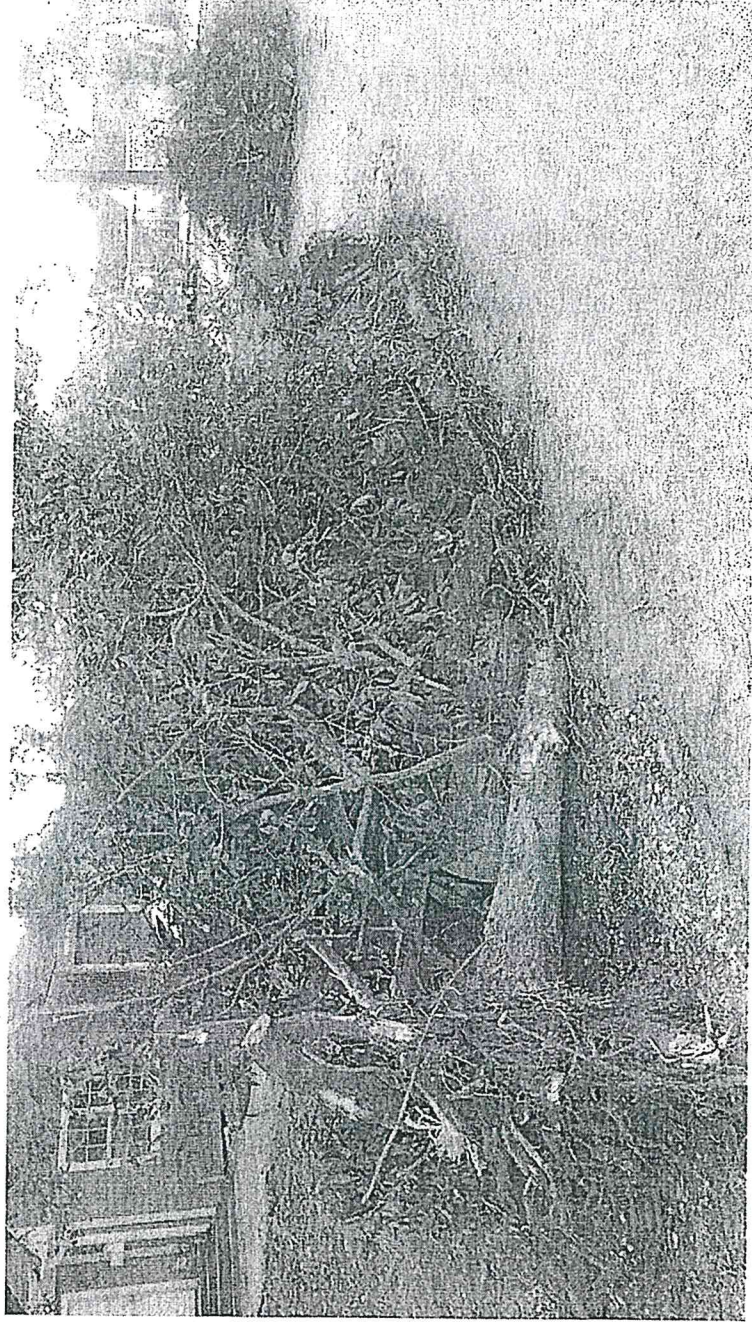


# ACCEPTABLE VOLUME



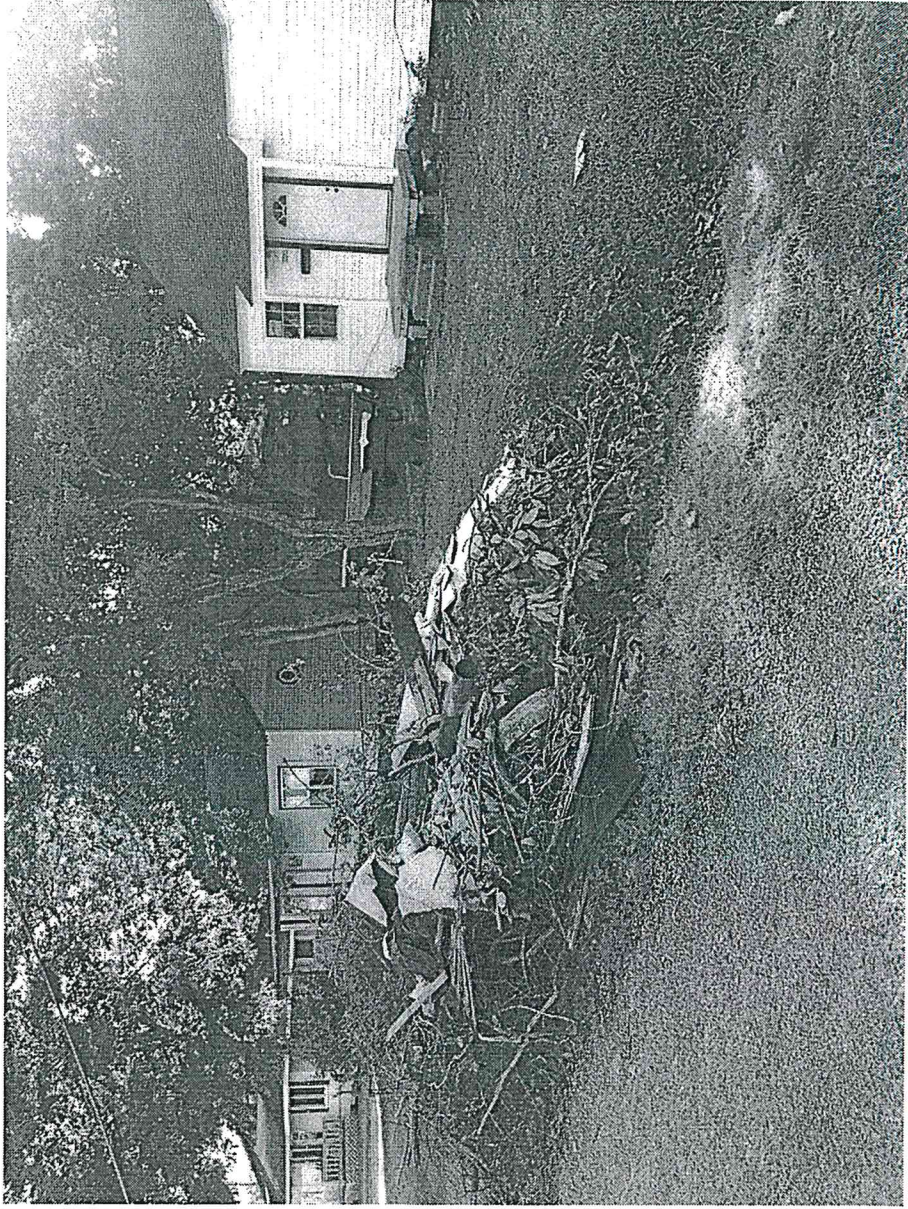


# UNACCEPTABLE VOLUME



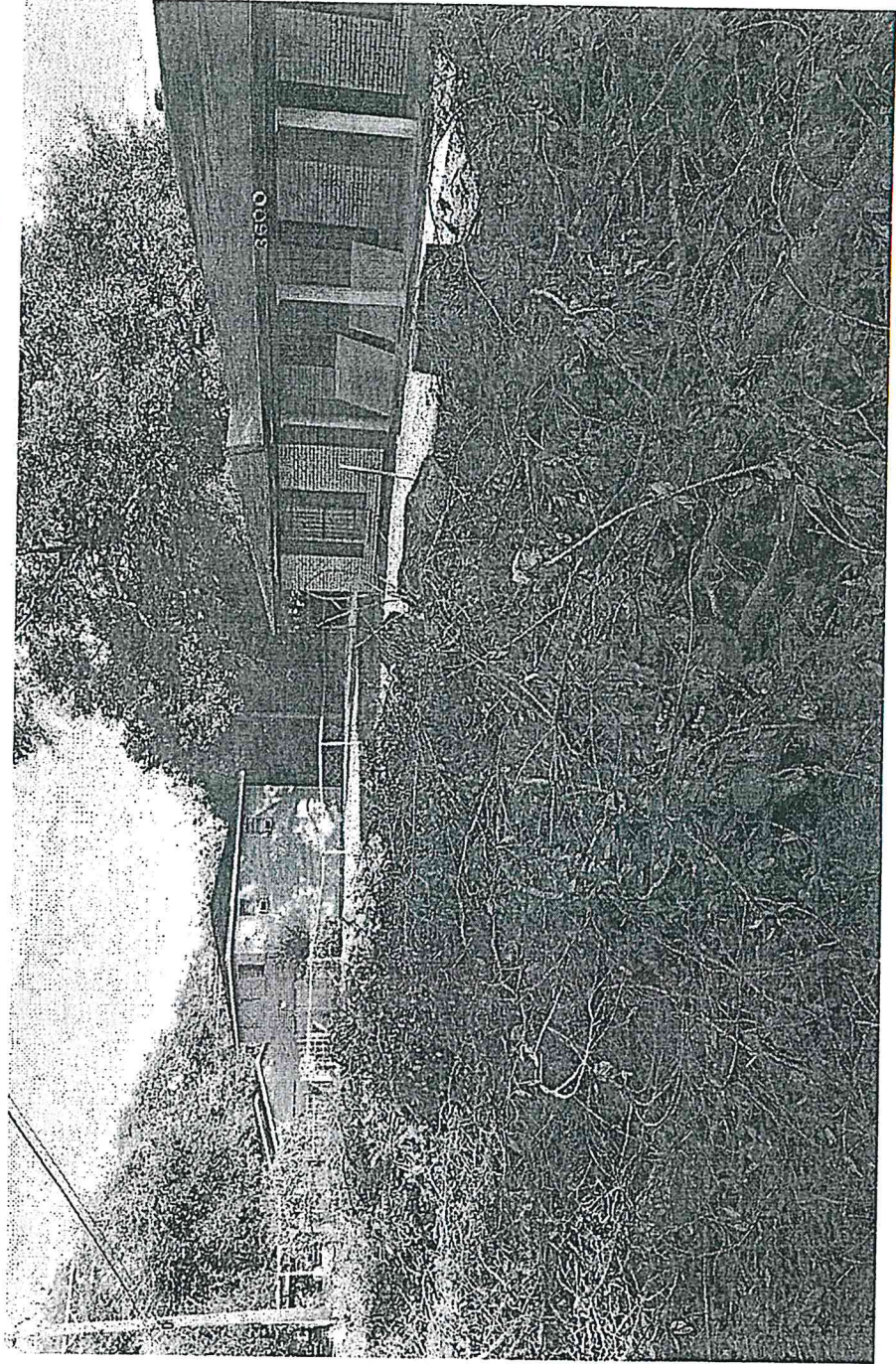


**UNACCEPTABLE VOLUME**





# UNACCEPTABLE VOLUME





# NOTIFICATION

- Changes will be posted
  - Website
  - Facebook page
  - Media
  - City buildings
  - Water bills
- Informing tree trimmers as we see them
- Informing homeowners as we see them trimming