

A special meeting of the Groves City Council was held November 15, 2021 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Paul Oliver, and Councilmember Mark McAdams in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Councilmember McAdams led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2021 CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and there were none. He then asked for citizen comments. Rick Fairchild of 5030 Kent Ave. stated that he had circulated a petition up and down Kent Avenue in favor of placing a 4 way stop at the intersection of Kent and Jackson. He reported that people are speeding on the stretch of Kent that connects Monroe to Hogaboom. He gave copies of the signed petition pages to each of the councilmembers. Tressie Nichols of 5110 Kent echoed Mr. Fairchild's concerns. City Marshal Norman Reynolds agreed with Mr. Fairchild and Ms. Nichols that this section of Kent is a problem area at certain times of the day. Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CLOSURE OF LINCOLN AVE. FROM WASHINGTON TO JEFFERSON ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR A DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion to consider authorizing the closure of Lincoln Ave. from Washington to Jefferson on December 11, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion. Isaac Barbosa of 3015 Main Ave. addressed the Council and stated that the downtown area will be having the same setup as for the recent Fall Festival event, including vendors, arts and crafts, and Santa. Mayor Borne asked City Marshal Norman Reynolds if the Fall Festival had caused any extra police calls and Marshal Reynolds stated that there were no calls. Councilmember Dugas asked Mr. Barbosa if he had coordinated this event and he stated that he had and that all of the merchants were working together. Marshal Reynolds stated that he had assigned three officers for the area. One of the officers was on duty and the other two were overtime. Mr. Barbosa reported that they will be charging \$25 per vendor booth to help pay for Facebook advertising. Councilmember McAdams thanked Mr. Barbosa for organizing the event. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDS TO ADVERTISE "SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY" IN GROVES: Councilmember Dugas moved to authorize using hotel/motel tax funds to advertise Small Business Saturday and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa explained that this is a yearly event that has been held for the past 19 years that he has been in Groves. Mayor Borne asked the cost and Mr. Sosa stated \$1,500. Mayor Borne asked if this is for all businesses in the City or just businesses that are members of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sosa stated that it is for all businesses in Groves. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDS TO ADVERTISE THE GROVES CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIL: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider authorizing use of hotel/motel tax funds to advertise the Groves Christmas Tree Trail and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked the amount requested and Mr. Sosa stated \$5,000. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CANCELING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2021: Mayor Borne stated that this item was not being considered and that the regular city council meeting would be held.

CONSIDER INSTALLING A FOUR WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF JACKSON BLVD. AND KENT AVE.: Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to install a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Jackson Blvd. and Kent Ave. and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mr. Sosa stated that the City does not have a traffic coordinator and has not had one in many years. The City relies on Marshal Reynolds' recommendations. Marshal Reynolds addressed the Council and stated that he has heard complaints on this location for many years and feels that it meets the criteria for a 4 way stop sign. He explained that his perspective is that he sympathizes with the people who live on Kent and his suggestion would be to install a 4 way stop sign in an effort to slow the vehicles down. Mayor Pro Tem Badon stated that it is at the Council's discretion and Mr. Sosa stated that Groves is a home rule city and the Council can make the decision. Mayor Pro Tem Badon remarked that the soccer fields and new football fields on Hogaboom will be causing increased traffic. Councilmember McAdams stated that he lives one block off of Kent on Simpson and he gets some of the traffic also. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Sosa if this were to pass, are there options for stop signs for a blinking or lit sign or something t

call attention to the new stop. Mr. Sosa stated that there are some new stop signs that incorporate flashing lights. The City can install the 4 way stop immediately and add amenities. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Fairchild if the neighbors would have objections to a flashing sign and Mr. Fairchild stated that the ones he has talked to would not care. Marshal Reynolds stated that he had seen some signs with a red border. Mayor Pro Tem Badon suggested "stop sign ahead" signs and Mr. Fairchild stated that the City is welcome to his and other people's yards to put signs in them. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE CITY OF GROVES GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021: City Attorney James Black read the caption of proposed Ordinance No. 2021-17 as follows: "An ordinance canvassing returns and declaring results of an election held on the 2nd day of November, 2021, in the City of Groves." Councilmember McAdams moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-17 declaring the results of the General Election held on November 2, 2021 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mr. Black stated that there was no one elected in Ward No. 3, as none of the candidates- Rob Vensel, Michael Campise, and Barbara Edington- received a majority of the votes. However, Mark McAdams was an unopposed candidate for Ward No. 1 Councilmember. He received 725 votes and was elected. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED WARD NO. 1 COUNCILMEMBER MARK MCADAMS: James Black administered the Oath of Office to Ward No. 1 Councilmember Mark McAdams.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE CITY OF GROVES SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021 FOR ADOPTION OF THE STATE LAW APPLICABLE TO FIREFIGHTERS THAT ESTABLISHES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion approving the ordinance declaring results of the November 2, 2021 Special Election for adoption of the state law applicable to firefighters establishing collective bargaining. Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mr. Black read the caption of proposed Ordinance No. 2021-18 as follows: "An ordinance canvassing returns and declaring results of a special election held concurrently with the City of Groves General Election on the 2nd day of November, 2021, in the City of Groves, for the purpose of an election for the adoption of the Fire and Police Employee Relations

Act, Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 174, applicable to firefighters that establishes collective bargaining for the Groves Fire Department." Mayor Borne asked what would be the first year to use collective bargaining and Mr. Sosa stated 2022-2023. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE CITY OF GROVES SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021 TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER TO GIVE THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 1905, THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN BINDING ARBITRATION: Mr. Black presented proposed Ordinance No. 2021-19, reading the caption as follows: "An ordinance canvassing returns and declaring results of a special election held concurrently with the City of Groves General Election on the 2nd day of November, 2021, in the City of Groves, for the purpose of an election pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 9, to amend the charter of the City of Groves by adding Article XIV, Section 4, "Collective Bargaining Impasse" providing for binding arbitration." Mr. Black stated that this section will be added to the City Charter. Councilmember Dugas moved to approve Ordinance 2021-19 and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDER CALLING A SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR THE POSITION OF WARD NO. 3 COUNCILMEMBER FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion approving the Order calling a special runoff election for December 14, 2021 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR THE POSITION OF WARD NO. 3 COUNCILMEMBER FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Borne read the Notice as follows: "To the registered voters of the City of Groves, Texas: Notice is hereby given that a Special Runoff Election will be held on December 14, 2021, at the following location for the purpose of electing a Councilmember in Ward No. 3 for a two-year term, for the reason that the regular municipal election held on November 2, 2021, did not result in the election of a candidate to the office of Councilmember in Ward No. 3 for a two-year term because no candidate for said office received a majority of the votes cast in said election. The Early Voting polling location: Groves Activity Building, 6150 39th St., Groves, TX 77619; dates and hours for above early voting locations: November 29 – December 3, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; December 6 – 8, Monday-Wednesday 8:00

a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; December 9 – 10, Thursday-Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Election Day Polling Location: Groves Activity Building, 6150 39th St., Groves, TX 77619. Early Voting by Mail: The Office of the City Clerk of the City of Groves, Groves City Hall, 3947 Lincoln Avenue, Groves, TX 77619, shall be the voting place for all early voting by mail, and the name and mailing address of the Early Voting Clerk is: Kimbra B. Lowery, Groves City Clerk, Groves City Hall, 3947 Lincoln Avenue, Groves, TX 77619, which is the address to which all City of Groves early voting ballot applications shall be sent. Early voting by mail shall be conducted during the same period as early voting by personal appearance, except that envelopes containing mailed ballots must arrive at the address on the carrier envelope before the polls are required to close on Election Day, unless otherwise determined to be timely pursuant to Article 86.007, Texas Election Code. Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on December 3, 2021. All City of Groves applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed, or delivered by common or contract carrier, to the Early Voting Clerk: Kimbra B. Lowery, Groves City Clerk, 3947 Lincoln Ave., Groves, TX 77619. Early Voting Clerk, Phone: 409-960-5773; email: kbutler@cigrovestx.com. Issued this the 15th day of November, 2021.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE CALLING A SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR THE POSITION OF WARD NO. 3 COUNCILMEMBER FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mr. Black presented proposed Ordinance No. 2021-20, reading the caption as follows: “An ordinance calling a special runoff election, in accordance with the Order of the Mayor, to be held within the City of Groves on the 14th day of December, 2021, for the purpose of electing a councilmember in Ward No. 3 for a two year term; fixing the hours thereof; declaring the qualifications of electors; providing terms of office; providing for an election services contract to be adopted by Jefferson County and City of Groves establishing respective duties and services of Jefferson County and the City of Groves in the conduct of the runoff election, establishing a polling place and providing for the appointment of election officials; providing for publication and posting of notices; providing for posting a list of candidates; providing for preparation of ballots and expenses of election; providing that all notices, ballots and other materials be bilingual, to-wit: English and Spanish; providing for electronic voting; and providing an effective date.” Councilmember McAdams moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-20 calling a special runoff election and Mayor Pro Tem Baden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$96,197.29 as follows:

Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	25,003.00
City of Port Arthur	Sludge disposal (1,320); Partial Sept./Oct. 2021 landfill fees (17,120).	18,440.00
Joiner Architects	Construction of new Fire Station.	47,495.84
MasterCard Gold	All departments – miscellaneous purchases.	5,258.45

Councilmember Dugas moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$96,197.29 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked if the sludge disposal costs will be impacted by the improvements Schneider will be making to the wastewater plant. Mr. Sosa stated that most of the costs incurred with sludge disposal are from the hauler and if the City can cut down the number of trips, there will be a savings. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

