

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held June 5, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Councilmember Oliver then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2023 JOINT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING: Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 Joint Public Hearing Meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne stated that the next item was for reports or citizen comments. Mayor Borne asked for reports and Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that Water Plant Supervisor David Molbert would be giving the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report. Mr. Molbert stated that this is our annual report that comes out every year and he also stated that we had no violations for 2022. Mr. Molbert also stated that this report is also on the City Website for anyone who would like to read it. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments and Mr. Leroy Falcon 6600 Val Street in Groves stated that he was here to give the Mayor and Council some opinions and views of some concerned citizens in Groves. Mr. Falcon stated that they are here to express their gratitude and support for Lance Billeaud. Mr. Falcon then stated that Lance has put his life on the line for our community for 26 years and also that Mr. Billeaud took on this role as Interim City Manager for the love of his community. Mr. Falcon also stated that Mr. Billeaud put his job as Fire Chief on hold for this community, City Employees and the City Council/Mayor. Mr. Falcon then stated that they are all aware that Mr. Billeaud was spoken to at the last Council Meeting in a manner that he did not deserve and in their opinion as Citizens of Groves it was disrespectful. Mr. Falcon stated that himself along with many citizens here tonight would like an apology for Lance Billeaud and if one is not given then other steps may be taken including a possible recall petition. There were no other citizen comments.

DISCUSS THE MURAL THAT IS ON THE SIDE OF THE GROVES ACTIVITY BUILDING: Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to discuss the mural that is on the side of the Groves Activity Building and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas discussed items that she felt were not gone about in the right way including moving money in the budget before it was approved by Council. Councilmember Dugas also has concerns of not having a contract with the artist and if there were Grants available. Councilmember Dugas also stated that City Council should have been consulted about bids, painters and have been able to choose the design of the picture. Councilmember Dugas also asked about if the artist had insurance incase she was hurt and Interim City Manager Billeaud stated that TML (Texas Municipal League) was contacted and the City was told that the artist did not have to secure their own insurance for this project. Councilmember Oliver agreed with the questions Councilmember Dugas asked.

Councilmember Vensel asked Mr. Billeaud if he needed that \$15,000 in the overtime budget for the Firemen and Mr. Billeaud stated that they did not. Councilmember Vensel then asked Mr. Billeaud if it created a hardship for the Fire Department and Mr. Billeaud said it did not. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked if moving money from one department to another before the budget is finalized up to the City Manager and Mr. Billeaud stated that the City Manager can move it before the budget is finalized. Mayor Borne stated that his opinion is it was a budgeted line item and it is up to the department heads to see that those budgets are taken care of. Mr. Borne also stated that the day to day business is not up to Council, that is up to the City Manager and Department Heads. Mayor Borne also stated that he believes everything was done appropriately and that the mural looks amazing. There was no further discussion on this item.

INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$63,256.87 as follows:

DXI Industries, Inc.	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	9,646.20
Epic Engineering, LLC	Emergency repair on the SCADA network switch.	5,774.09
Leavins Engineering & Design, LLC	January, February, March and April 2023 payments for GLO Phase III Street project.	29,500.00
Republic Services	Sludge disposal for April 2023.	6,924.22

Slavin Management Consultants	Invoice #2 of 4 for Executive Recruitment Services.	6,288.00
WC Tractor Washington County Tractor	Replace Injectors on Slope Mower.	5,124.36

Councilmember Vensel moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$63,256.87 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams stated that he knows Mr. Billeaud was put in an awkward position and he knows that he has served the City for a long time and he just wanted to thank him for what he does. Councilmember Vensel stated that he would like to echo what Mr. McAdams just said that we need him here until we can find someone else for City Manager. Mr. Vensel also stated that he thinks Mr. Billeaud is doing a great job.

Councilmember Dugas stated that she will not be leaving her position for any recall petition and if the citizens want to start on they can go right ahead. Ms. Dugas also stated that if a recall is attempted then it will fail. Councilmember Oliver then thanked Mr. Billeaud for his service. Mayor Borne extended his condolences to the Curtis family.

Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.



Mayor Borne

ATTEST:



City Clerk