

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held November 8, 2021 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Councilmember Mark McAdams was not present. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. He then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Dugas 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 and there were none.

**CONSIDER AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING SERVICES TO SOUTEX SURVEYORS AND ENGINEERS:** City Manager D.E. Sosa explained that the City received \$4,000,000 from the infrastructure grant fund and that the City has a very serious need for sewer line replacement. We will be spending the first \$1.9 million on sewer line replacement. The City has discussed this with Soutex. Engineering services normally run 12-15%, and Soutex is doing it for 7-8%. Councilmember Dugas moved to award a contract for sewer main replacement engineering services to Soutex Surveyors and Engineers and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Councilmember Dugas asked if this is a standard contract and Mr. Sosa stated that it is a boiler plate, standard contract that the City uses with all of its engineers. Councilmember Dugas asked if the City had ever had to use the compensation rate schedule. Jeremy Mitchell of Soutex responded that he includes the compensation rate schedule in the contracts to say it is an avenue if needed. He also stated that he has never used it and that it is standard in all of his proposals. Mayor Borne questioned the \$109,700 estimated cost for scope of work. Mr. Mitchell stated that was correct. Mayor Borne asked if this is for the total grant or just the first \$1.9 million. Mr. Sosa stated it is just for the first \$1.9 million. Mr. Sosa stated that Soutex would be doing the bid process and making a recommendation. Mayor Borne asked if they will be monitoring the job and Mr. Mitchell stated they would be doing periodic inspections. Mayor Pro Tem Badon asked if Council will be getting a map of the sewer lines and Mr. Mitchell stated that they would. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.: Mr. Sosa stated that this will be the canvass meeting for the City's November 2, 2021 General Election and Special Election. He explained that other items of business would also be considered at the meeting. Mayor Borne asked City Clerk Kimbra Lowery if November 15, 2021 would fall within the required canvass dates and she stated that it would. Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to schedule a Special Meeting for November 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION CASTING VOTES FOR DIRECTOR OF THE JEFFERSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT FOR THE 2022-2023 TERM OF OFFICE: City Attorney James Black presented proposed Resolution No. 2021-05, reading the resolution as follows: "A resolution of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, casting votes for director of the Jefferson Central Appraisal District. Whereas, Section 6.01 of the Property Tax Code establishes a Tax Appraisal District in each County in the State of Texas; and Whereas, in accordance with Section 6.03(e) of the Property Tax Code, the Chief Appraiser of the Jefferson Central Appraisal District has determined that the City of Groves is entitled to 51 votes in the selection of five (5) directors for the Jefferson Central Appraisal District for the 2022-2023 term of office; Now therefore, be it resolved, by the City Council of the City of Groves: Section 1: That the City Council does hereby cast its 51 votes for Nicky Matt for Director of the Jefferson Central Appraisal District. Section 2: That a certified copy of this Resolution be delivered to Angela Bellard, RPA, RES, AAS, Chief Appraiser, Jefferson Central Appraisal District, Jefferson County, Texas, as evidence of the City of Groves' votes for Nicky Matt. Passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Groves held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021." Mayor Borne asked that the motion be amended to include the name of the person the votes were being cast for. Councilmember Dugas asked who Nicky Matt is and Mr. Sosa stated that he retired from the Nederland Police Department and that he knows him personally. Councilmember Dugas asked why Mr. Matt wasn't in attendance at the meeting and Mr. Sosa explained that he did not ask him to come. Mr. Sosa stated that Nederland, Groves, and Port Neches usually cast their votes for the same person. Mayor Borne asked who Mr. Matt is replacing and Mr. Sosa responded that he will be replacing Terry Schwertner. Mayor Borne stated that the directors do not set values and Mr. Sosa stated that they provide supervisory overview of the budget, etc. Mr. Black stated that it is for a two-year term. Councilmember Dugas amended her motion to consider approval of the resolution casting the City's 51 votes for Director of the Jefferson Central Appraisal

District for the 2022-2023 term of office for Nicky Matt. Councilmember Oliver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GROVES CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART II, TECHNICAL ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 28, ARTICLE II, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, SEC. 28-14. AMENDMENTS, SEC. 108.2 SCHEDULE OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES; AND ARTICLE III, GROVES RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION CODE, SEC. 28-23. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, SEC. R108.2 SCHEDULE OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES, PLAN CHECKING FEES: Mr. Black presented proposed Ordinance No. 2021-16, reading the caption as follows: "An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Groves, Part II, Technical Ordinances, Chapter 28, Buildings, Article II, International Building Code, by amending Section 28-14. Amendments, Sec. 108.2 – Schedule of Building Permit Fees, 8. – Plan Checking Fees, and Article III, Groves Residential Construction Code, by amending Section 28-23, Amendments to the International Residential Code, (3), Sec. R108.2 – Schedule of Building Permit Fees, i., Plan Checking Fees, to provide a maximum plan checking fee of \$2,500 in both instances; providing a penalty; providing a savings clause; providing for codification; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; and providing an effective date."

Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-16 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and asked Mr. Sosa how many structures had been built in the past two years that this would have affected. Mr. Sosa stated two—the new fire station and the new school (West Groves). There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$754,595.16 as follows:

Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	25,003.00
Durotech, Inc.	New Fire Station construction- October payment.	540,863.80
DXI	Chemicals for Wastewater Plant (950; 4500).	5,450.00
First Financial Bank	Unused line of credit invoice for FYE 2021.	5,000.00
Fuelman	Gas and diesel fuel for October 2021.	20,474.36
Hol-Mac Corp.	Slewing ring for #48 trash truck (replacement).	6,483.42
Jared's Paint & Body	Front end repairs for unit #38 (Public Works truck).	10,847.66

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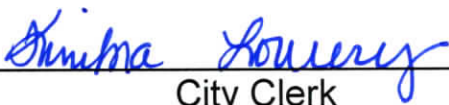
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Maintenance. Councilmember Oliver suggested looking at the cost of the diagnostic equipment vs. how quickly it could become outdated. Councilmember Dugas thanked everyone that went to the Pecan Festival. She also asked Mr. Sosa when the audio of the Council meetings will be put on the website. Mr. Sosa reported that the IT Department will be doing it this week. Mayor Borne thanked Public Works, Police, and Fire, and all of the Chamber volunteers for their work at the Pecan Festival. He stated that it was clean and organized and all went well.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk



