

A special meeting of the Groves City Council was held April 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Mark McAdams, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and led the prayer and pledge of allegiance. Mayor Borne welcomed the attendees.

CONSIDER AWARDING THE BID FOR THE 2021 GLO CDBG-DR STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT GLO CONTRACT NO. 20-065-039-C120, LD CONSTRUCTION, THE LOW BIDDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,249,111.00: Councilmember Mark McAdams made a motion to consider awarding the bid for the 2021 GLO CDBG-DR Street Improvements Project GLO Contract NO. 20-065-039-C120, LD Construction, the low bidder, in the amount of \$1,249,111.00. Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that in Council's packet is a list of the particular streets for phase 2 of this project. He also stated that we have our engineer from Whiteley & Oliver, Mr. Leavins here. We had two bids for this project, one from LD Construction and the other was Gulf Coast. Mr. Sosa also stated by going with the low bid from LD Construction this would allow the City to go to a Phase 3, which would allow the City to do some additional streets. Councilmember Mark McAdams asked why are we only getting 1 to 2 bids, are allowing enough time for companies to bid on projects? Jeff Leavins from Whiteley and Oliver stated that this question has come up a lot through the years. Mr. Leavins stated that one of the big reasons is that LD Construction and Gulf Coast own their own asphalt plants so that's why they are usually the only 2 bidders on asphalt projects. He also stated that it's not economical for a contractor from Houston to buy it from the two groups here who already make it. They can't just truck it in because it's a hot mix so they would have to buy it from the two groups here who produce it. Mr. Leavins stated that he's not sure about the concrete/curbs type projects, he's not sure why only one or two people are bidding for those. Councilmember Paul Oliver asked what the standard is for when a contractor bids a project, how much time do you normally give them to bid. Mr. Leavins stated at least 3 to 4 weeks, but if it's a more technical project then we try to lengthen that time. Mr. Leavins also stated that he believes it's a minimum of 21 days from the time of advertising before the actual bidding process can take place.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if a contractor knows to look in the newspaper for these advertisements and Mr. Leavins stated that they should as that has been a regular practice for 20 to 30 years, and they also can look on Civcast to check for projects. He also stated that the advertisement has to run for two consecutive weeks. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked of this has always been a 3 to 4 weeks process and City Manger D.E. Sosa stated that in his experience it has been at least a 3 to 4 weeks process. Councilmember Rob Vensel asked is anyone can log onto Civcast to see the postings for bids and the Whiteley and Oliver representatives stated that was correct. They also stated that you can see the amount of people who downloaded the jobs on this website as well. Councilmember Oliver asked if LD Construction has done any other work for us and Mr. Sosa stated that they did Lackey for us at the end of last year. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked is this bid is a good number and Mr. Sosa said that this was an amazing bid. City Manager D.E. Sosa also stated that by this bid being so low it will allow the City to do a Phase 3 and allow us to fix even more streets. Mayor Borne asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Citizen Comments and there were none.

Mayor Borne then stated we would move on to reports. City Manager D.E. Sosa had a report followed by a discussion for improvement options to City Waste Water Plant. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that we brought in our waste water plant Manager Coby Doucet and we also have representatives from Schneider Electric. Mr. Sosa said everyone should have a packet that includes a Scope Revision, Funding Sources, Debt Services and Graph of Local Utility Rates. Troy Foxworth then went over the Proposed Treatment Plant Scope Revision. This Revision includes Headworks Screening, Headworks Grit, Aeration Basin Process Upgrade, and Aerobic Digestion Process Upgrades. Please see attached packet for specifics for this Plan Scope Revision. Mayor Borne asked in regards to the Headworks Screening, he wanted to know by making

the holes smaller how do you remove the grit that's pulled off of those screens, is it manually? Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated that it has both mechanical and manual screens but they need to be smaller. Councilmember Paul Oliver then asked out of everything on the Scope Revision which one gives you the most problems. Plant Manager Coby Doucet stated that the Headworks give them the most problems and by getting the screens smaller this would help stop things getting by that shouldn't and this would also be less strain on the pumps. Plant Manager Doucet also stated that the grit classifier we currently have is obsolete so he is having trouble finding replacement parts for it.

Mayor Borne then asked the representatives from Schneider about the part of this proposal that is for cost savings and energy reduction. Mayor Borne then stated that in order to achieve the cost savings we would need the blowers to be able to run at multi speeds as apposed to being on or off. Craig Mesenbrink from Schneider Electric stated that was correct. Mayor Borne then proceeded to say that with the proposed cost savings if all of these projects aren't done then we wouldn't get the savings we were told upfront because we are not being as efficient with our blowers and our motors. Mr. Mesenbrink from Schneider stated that was also correct. Mayor Borne then stated that the top 2 on the Scope Revision Plan which are Headworks Screening and Headworks Grit are going to be crucial to making our system better. He also stated that our energy consumption is going to really be reliant on the bottom 2 scopes which are Aeration Basin Process Upgrades and Aerobic Digestion Process Upgrades.

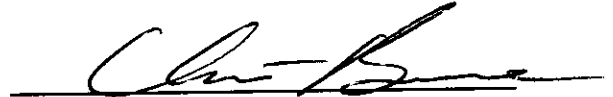
Craig Mesenbrink from Schneider Electric stated that in November the plan was going from the front to back of the plant, but per request they narrowed it down to what is most critical to affect the plant efficiency of the operations. He then stated that they also narrowed it down to the top 2 items for the efficiency of Entergy also. Mayor Borne then stated that the numbers we were given is an estimated cost basis on the new scope of work and then that would come with a new list of contractors, equipment deliveries and potentially the cost could be a little more than the original estimate or a little less. He also stated that you have to nail down the scope before you can nail down the project cost. Mr. Mesenbrink from Schneider Electric stated that was correct. Mr. Mesenbrink then said once Council makes a decision on what scope they would like to proceed with then Schneider Electric would come back with the price nailed down.

City Manager D.E. Sosa then went over the funding sources for 6.5 – 7.0 million dollars waste water plant upgrade. Please see attached packet for the specifics for funding sources. Mayor Borne then asked about the first line item for septage receiving, do we have an idea of what our competitors are charging. Finance Director Lamar Ozley responded that he does not know what their rates are except the fact that they are all located in Beaumont. Mayor Borne then stated that any information we can get on that would be helpful, we don't want to go and price ourselves out of business. Mayor Borne then asked when the last time the sewer maintenance was increased and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated not since 2015. Mayor Borne then asked about the base rate water bill and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that was increased in 2021. Mayor Borne then stated at no point would we ever consider doing anything with EDC funds for this project. City Manager D.E. Sosa made it clear that we are not allowed to use EDC funds for this. Mayor Borne replied good, he just wanted to make sure everyone understands that. Mayor Borne then asked that if we decide to not do any of this, how long before our systems are obsolete. Craig Mesenbrink from Schneider responded the waste water plant is already about 3 years past the point where a critical failure can put you out permanently.


Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked how will the savings in energy reduction going to be measured. Mr. Mesenbrink said before you even see a contract proposal for this Schneider Electric will have modeled energy calculations done for each piece of equipment. He also stated post construction there are two methods, the first is looking at the current energy consumption and how much was used after installation. The second option would be to come in under a performance guarantee, if said amount of energy isn't saved then Schneider Electric would make up the difference.

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Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember Comments and there were none. Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk