

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held January 3, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Mark McAdams, and Councilmember Rob Vensel in attendance. Councilmember Paul Oliver was not present. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. He led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Dugas moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 Special Meeting as written and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that Fire Chief Lance Billeaud would be giving an update on the new Fire Station and he would give a report on sales tax. Chief Billeaud stated that progress was being made at the fire station. They are still waiting on the bay doors, which are supposed to be delivered to the installer in Houston this Thursday (01/06/2022). There is also a delay with installation of the elevator, due to a shortage of employees having Covid. However, he is expecting the department to move in next week. He reported that Covid is becoming a big factor in the area again. The new strain symptoms seem to be sinus, headaches, and sore throat. He will be meeting with Human Resource Director Stephanie Gaspard to review the City's Covid protocols in an effort to minimize exposure to the workforce. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas remarked that the fire station looks very nice. Councilmember McAdams asked if the doors will delay personnel moving in. Chief Billeaud responded that it will have secured fencing, but that insurance is looking into whether the building will have to be secured prior to move in.

Mr. Sosa reported that the City saw a \$31,278 increase in sales tax for 2021, which translates to \$2,000,000 in taxable sales that it did not have last year. There are five sites available on Hitt St., with Chic-Fil-A and Starbucks opening soon. The structures at Lindenmayer Park have been demolished and the new owner, Aaron Hebert, will be moving his business in. Economic Development is definitely progressing throughout the City.

Mayor Borne thanked Chief Billeaud and Mr. Sosa for their reports and then asked for citizen comments. Kirk Mahaney of 3848 Dunn addressed the Council. Mr. Mahaney explained that he is with the Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club, and that the club is planning a winter field day to be held at Lions Park on Saturday, January 29th. They would like to use the area behind the baseball field for their event, which will run from 1:00 p.m. Saturday through 1:00 p.m. Sunday (January 29th- 30th). Their goal is to make contact with all 50 states with 700 different contacts in different areas. The

group does this every summer but is wanting to try it in the winter. He stated that the club has used Lions Park for past events. They have a trailer that they will bring in order to have food and supplies. Mr. Sosa stated that this item will be on the agenda for the January 17, 2022 city council meeting.

CONSIDER AWARDING THE BID FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS BEHIND LINCOLN AVE. TO TEXAS PRIDE UTILITIES, LLC, THE LOW BIDDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,570: Mr. Sosa reported that the City had received three (3) competitive bids ranging from \$122,570 to \$168,425. The engineer (Arceneaux Wilson & Cole) is recommending the bid be awarded to Texas Pride Utilities, LLC. in the amount of \$122,570. Public Works Director Troy Foxworth stated that Texas Pride Utilities had done the work off of Plaza and had done a good job. Councilmember McAdams made a motion to award the bid for infrastructure improvements behind Lincoln Ave. to Texas Pride Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$122,570 and Mayor Pro Tem Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and stated this is for replacement of private sewer line and that the City will own the new line. Councilmember Vensel asked when they will begin the project and Mr. Sosa stated within the next 10 days. Mayor Borne asked if they have a timeline for how long it will impact the businesses affected. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if the businesses will be notified before the work begins and Mr. Sosa stated yes, and that he did not have specific information on the timeline but felt the job wouldn't take over 30 days. Mr. Foxworth stated that the work will not interrupt their service. Sidney Badon of 2310 Lackey asked if they are pipe bursting, will they be going through the lines. Mr. Sosa responded that he did not know if they will be pipe bursting. Mr. Badon stated that if they are pipe bursting they will be going through the sewer lines. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER CHANGING THE NAME OF WEST GROVES PARK TO "JOHN SPIKES MEMORIAL PARK": Mr. Sosa explained that he had contacted Charles Terrell to inquire about purchasing a tree to be planted in memory of City employee John Spikes and that Mr. Terrell had suggested naming West Groves Park after him, as he took care of all of the City parks. Councilmember McAdams moved to change the name of West Groves Park to John Spikes Memorial Park and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked how many years of service John had with the City and Mr. Foxworth stated he had 17 years. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked how long it would be until the name is changed and Mr. Sosa stated that there will be a sign designed and he will ask for Council's approval. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER AND FINAL PAYMENT ON HITT ST. PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,460 (RETAINAGE OF \$23,160 AND CHANGE ORDER OF \$40,300): Mr. Sosa stated this is to make Hitt St. a public street in order to make five (5) lots with public access and individual storm drainage. He also stated that Jeremy Mitchell of Soutex Surveyors & Engineers was present to answer any questions. Councilmember Vensel made a motion to approve the change order and final payment on the Hitt St. project in the amount of \$63,460 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and Councilmember McAdams asked for an explanation of this item. Mr. Mitchell addressed the Council and referred to correspondence dated December 23, 2021 which he previously sent to the City and outlined the change order in the amount of \$40,300 and the retainage of \$23,160 for a total of \$63,460. He explained that when Soutex originally submitted the bid they took out \$20,000 for moving concrete and also took out an item for a conflict box. The new change order was \$40,300, which was the overage. \$4,600 was flowable backfill. A line item in the amount of \$20,000 for drives was removed. The curbing broke, which resulted in a cost of \$2,300. The third item was for concrete. When cuts were made, the rebar was sitting in the bottom. This section was cut out and replaced. There was also an issue with a gas line on 39th St. that did not show up until the dig was done. The gas company wanted to relocate the line. In addition, small pieces of concrete on the roadway and a piece on 39th St. were replaced for a total of \$20,000. The One-Call locating service indicated that AT&T had installed an optic line that they wanted to relocate because of its close proximity to the work being done. We moved that 36" line into the roadway on Hitt St. The contractor absorbed \$8,500 of the cost for relocating the line. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked about labor costs and Mr. Mitchell stated that it was a combined cost. Mayor Borne asked if other than the conflict boxes was there any way we could have foreseen any of the other problems. Mr. Mitchell stated that there was no way to foresee the problems and that this was a true definition of a change order. Mayor Borne asked if Public Works had done the final walk through and Mr. Foxworth responded that they had. Mayor Borne asked if the City is pleased with the job and ready to pay the retainage. Mr. Foxworth stated that they are satisfied with the job and ready to pay. Mayor Borne thanked Mr. Mitchell for the explanation and pictures provided to help Council make a decision.

Barbara Edington of 3800 Russell stated that the original cost was \$231,600 and asked the total cost of the project. Mr. Sosa stated the total cost was \$271,900. Ms. Edington remarked that the original sum of the project was being paid from EDC and some of it was being paid from a grant. Mr. Sosa explained that the change order

would be paid by Streets and some of it by the EDC. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$68,550.00 as follows:

Sabine Equipment	(2) Gorman Rupp Self Priming Centrifugal Pumps 2 @ \$30,250 ea.	60,500.00
Neil Technical Services	4" and 6" valves for grit basin at Wastewater Plant (4,550); pull and replace RAS #1 check valve at Wastewater Plant (3,500).	8,050.00

Councilmember McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$68,550.00 and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and asked if the pump expense was unexpected or budgeted. Mr. Sosa stated that this expense was unforeseen and Mr. Foxworth agreed. Mayor Borne asked if it was the same for the valves and Mr. Foxworth stated it was. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mr. Sosa reminded the Council to turn in their zoning maps.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

