

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held July 18, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver and Councilmember Rob Vensel in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and then Councilmember Mark McAdams led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:  
Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2022 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and we did have a report from Chief Billeaud regarding the spay and neuter program. Chief Billeaud stated that several years ago Dale Jackson started investigating into a spay and neuter program for the City of Groves. Then Chief Billeaud stated that whenever Mr. Jackson retired he passed it along to him and told him that this is what he had started and asked Chief Billeaud to finish it. It is a line item that has been in the budget for several years for this program but we haven't been able to set it up. Chief Billeaud then stated that basically this program is for people who live in the City that are low income and need help to get their pets spayed and neutered. Chief Billeaud also stated that we have a very bad problem with loose dogs and cats in the City and this is a way to help control that population. Chief Billeaud then stated there will be an application for the process and it also releases liability on the City of Groves by participating in this program. He also stated that one of the things they have to provide proof of is rabies vaccination, we do not pay for rabies vaccination. Chief Billeaud then stated that they will fill out an application, have an in-home interview with animal control officer, and will have a max of 3 animals per household per budget year. He also stated once that money from that line item is expended then the program is done for the rest of that budgeted year. Chief Billeaud also stated that they want to name the program after Mr. Jackson because of how much he has done for this program. Chief Billeaud then asked for questions. Councilmember Vensel then asked if there will be a flat fee for this program and Chief Billeaud stated yes and that it also has to be done with Veterinarians within the City of Groves. Mayor Borne asked if there were any other questions and there were none.

Mayor Borne then asked if there were any citizen comments and Larry Mannino of 4100 Grant Ave. asked about the Mayors section on the Agenda regarding the Dangerous Structures listed. Mr. Mannino stated that he has three other structures that is not on the list including the old hospital, the old Mike Harris building on 39<sup>th</sup> st, and the old fire station. Mayor Borne then asked if there were any other citizen

comments and Patrick Reeves of 4320 Cleveland stated that Mr. Mannino had some good suggestions but he would like to add the signs to that. Mr. Reeves suggested creating an ordinance in regards to this. Mayor Borne then asked if there were any other citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER SETTING CODES HEARING FOR AUGUST 1, 2022 "COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS/EMPTY STRUCTURES" DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: 2705 BOYD AVE., 3817 MILO, 5010 SIMPSON, 5300 GULF, 5419 WHITAKER, AND 7234 TERRELL.: Councilmember Mark McAdams made a motion to consider setting codes hearing for August 1, 2022 "Council on Dangerous/Empty Structures" directly following the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting for the following locations: 2705 Boyd Ave., 3817 Milo, 5010 Simpson, 5300 Gulf, 5419 Whitaker, and 7234 Terrell. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa then stated that these letters have already been sent out and the owners have been told to come to the August 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting. He also stated that when the owners come in then the Codes Committee can give them more time or decide to continue with demolition. Councilmember Oliver then asked if the taxes were up to date on these properties and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated they would have that information at the CODES hearing. Mayor Borne asked if there were any more questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR THE GROVES CAMPUSES: Mayor Borne then stated that we have been asked by Superintendent Mike Gonzales and Dr. Bartlett from the school board to table this item. Mayor Borne then also suggested that we discuss this item before tabling because we have Chief Paul Lemoine from the City of Port Neches here to answer any questions. Mayor Borne then asked for a motion and a second and no motion was made.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ORDER CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 2, COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 4, AND CITY MARSHALL: Mayor Pro Tem Dugas made a motion to consider approval of an order calling for a General Election to be held on November 8, 2022 for the purpose of electing a Mayor, Councilmember for Ward No. 2, Councilmember for Ward No. 4, and City Marshall. Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then asked if there were any questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022 IN THE CITY OF GROVES: Mayor Borne gave notice of the election and City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that no action was required on this item.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN JEFFERSON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF GROVES: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of an election services contract between Jefferson County and the City of Groves. Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that this is something that we do every year for the use of their machines and so forth. Mayor Borne then asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2022-08 AUTHORIZING THE SUSPENSION OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE PROPOSED BY ENTERGY WITH ITS RATE INCREASE APPLICATION: Mayor Chris Borne presented proposed Ordinance 2022-08, reading the caption as follows: "Ordinance of the City of Groves, Texas authorizing the suspension of the effective date for an additional ninety (90) days beyond the August 5, 2022, effective date proposed by Entergy Texas, Inc., in connection with its rate increase application entitled "Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. for authority to change rates", filed on July 1, 2022; authorizing participation with the Entergy Texas, Inc. service area cities steering committee hiring of experts; authorizing the City's participation to the full extent permitted by law at the Public Utility Commission of Texas; requiring reimbursement of Municipal rate case expenses; finding that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject, and declaring an effective date."

Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2022-08 and Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2022-09 CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON November 8, 2022 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 2, COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD NO. 4 AND CITY MARSHALL: Mayor Chris Borne presented proposed Ordinance 2022-09, reading the caption as follows: "An Ordinance calling an election, in accordance with the order of the City Council, to be held within the City of Groves on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022, for the purpose of electing a Mayor for a Two-Year Term, a Councilmember in Ward No. 2 for a Two-Year Term, a Councilmember in

Ward No. 4 for a Two-Year Term, and a City Marshal for a Two-Year Term; fixing the hours thereof; declaring the qualifications of Candidates; providing means by which Candidates may secure a place upon the ballot; declaring the qualifications of electors; providing terms of offices; providing for the adoption and incorporation of an Election Services Agreement between Jefferson County, Texas and the City of Groves providing for a Joint Election, establishing polling places 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 be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas."

Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2022-09 and Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CITY ATTORNEY'S APPOINTMENT OF NATHAN L. "BUDDY" REYNOLDS, JR. AS CITY PROSECUTOR IN GROVES MUNICIPAL COURT DUE TO RETIREMENT OF JESSE BRANICK: Mayor Borne then stated that they were going to remove this from the Agenda with the absence of the City Attorney.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$442,050.65 as follows:

Brenntag Southwest, Inc.	Water Plant Chemicals.	12,735.01
Carbon Sales, Inc	Anthracite used in filtration, needed to top off filters.	7,194.00
City of Port Arthur	Sludge disposal (1,872) (Partial May/ June 2022 Landfill fees (16,900).	18,772.00
Core & Main L.P.	Supplies for Public Works for Manhole Rehab.	5,950.36
DXI Industries Inc.	Chlorine for Water Plant. (beginning of June).	5,700.00

DXI Industries Inc.	Chlorine for Water Plant. (end of June).	5,700.00
DXI Industries Inc.	Wastewater Plant Chemicals (CL2 and SO2).	6,735.00
Greenscapes Six, LLC	Concrete Curb Ribbon Replacement Woodlawn Drive and Kent Avenue.	310,684.50
Groves Chamber	Third Quarter Hotel Occupancy Revenues.	15,000.00
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw Water Purchased for Water Plant.	22,920.65
Republic Services	Sludge Disposal. (April).	7,300.30
Republic Services	Peace and Dignity Program- 6654 Jefferson, 2730 Berry, 2120 Curt, 5901 David, 6239 Garner, 4649 Lincoln, 5600 39 <sup>th</sup> , 3129 Oak, 6528 Washington, 4970 Wilson, 4648 Kelly, 3817 Milo, Monroe/Indian Springs, 6398 Monroe, 5905 25 <sup>th</sup> , 3601 Pure Atlantic.	9,341.51
Sabine Equipment	Georgia Lift Station #4 Pump.	14,017.32

Councilmember Mark McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$442,050.65 and Mayor Pro Tem Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Rob Vensel then asked about the pump #4 at the Georgia Lift Station and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that we had to get it upgraded. He stated that it is the pump that handles the new Indian Springs Subdivision, with all the new homes that brings much more sewer. Councilmember Mark McAdams then asked about the concrete curb and if that is just another payment, City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that it is correct just one payment. City Manager D.E. Sosa then stated that Jeremy Mitchell from Soutex is here if there are any questions regarding this. Mr. Mitchell stated that they have a very small part of the curb left and Mr. McAdams then

asked if the lines are also being replaced. Mr. Mitchell from Soutex said the lines on Kent are being replaced. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked if this is coming out of grant money and City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that this is actually coming from our City street program. There were no other questions and motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated that she would like to congratulate all of the Groves businesses that came in 1<sup>st</sup> place with the Port Arthur News Best of 2022. There were no further comments.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk