

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held March 14, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Mark McAdams and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. Councilmember Paul Oliver then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE February 28, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MEETING:** Councilmember Mark McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 City Council meeting and Public Hearing Meeting as written and Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to receive the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Planning and Zoning Meeting as written and Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked for reports or citizen comments. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then stated that we have one report to receive the FYE 2021 Annual Financial Report from the City Auditor. Finance Director Lamar Ozley then introduced Jeremy Triska from Wathen, DeShong & Juncker L.L.P as the City Auditor. Mr. Ozley then proceeded to inform Council that Mr. Triska reports directly to them. Mr. Triska then presented his report. Financial Statements: The City received an unmodified rating, which is a "clean opinion", regarding internal control over financial reporting. We did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, or any non-compliance. Federal Awards: Internal control over the major program, we did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and we issued an unmodified report in relation to the single audit which is a federal program. He stated again that these are all positive statements and this is what you want to hear. The major Federal Program this year was the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Triska then highlighted the Statement of Net Position, Changes in Net Position, Schedule of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual- General Fund, Notes to the Financial Statements, and Schedule of Changes in Net Position Liability and Related Ratios Texas Municipal Retirement System. Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas asked about Mr. Triska's statement in regards to not fully budgeting for the New Fire Station. He stated that is a Capital Expenditure, so

typically you will not know at the beginning of the year what the total outflow will be until it's all bid off. Therefore it's not uncommon to see this especially with large capital expenditures. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked if there were any other questions and there were none.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked for citizen comments and there were none.

**AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO PURCHASE DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE GARAGE:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to authorize the City to purchase diagnostic equipment for the garage. Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that the City has been looking for some time for equipment to help us be able to do diagnostics ourselves and Eddie Cathey who is the Garage Supervisor is here to speak on this. Mr. Cathey stated that the owner of A and J Engine Service Inc. is retiring and that normally this is who the City would go to if our current diagnostic machines would not work on some of our equipment. Councilmember Paul Oliver asked if this would also help with our Police vehicles. Mr. Cathey stated that this equipment we are looking to purchase is more for our bigger trucks and will allow us to do our own diagnostics without having to call someone out or send our equipment elsewhere. Councilmember Oliver also asked if the equipment in question is roughly five years old and Mr. Cathey stated that yes it is. Mr. Cathey also stated that we would get a laptop with all the programs on it. We would also get the cart for it with all the plugs, accessories and chargers. The seller will also set up the transfer of lifetime tech support to the City. There will be a renewal fee on different programs but will be spread throughout the year. Councilmember Oliver asked if something happens to the computer system will the tech support take care of it and Mr. Cathey stated they would. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if we know when the transfer fees would have to be paid. Mr. Cathey stated that once we get approval from Council to purchase the equipment we would then set up the account with them and that's when the transfer fees would take place. Mr. Cathey also stated that \$5,000 is a great price because everything he has seen has been around \$30,000 to \$40,000. City Manager D.E. Sosa reminded Council that we do have these funds available in the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked about training and Mr. Cathey stated that all three garage workers will have to be trained on this using online training. Councilmember Oliver stated the initial cost would be \$5,000 but do we have a final number for when we start adding in all the fees. Mr. Cathey stated with everything except the training it will cost us \$11,387. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked that if today we would be only be authorizing the \$5,000 and Mr. Cathey stated yes that would be all for today. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER INCREASE TO THE COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE RATES:**

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to authorize increase to the commercial solid waste rates. Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that Michael Tentrup is here to explain that this is regarding the commercial garbage only and it is because Republic is going up on their rates for us. Republic is going up 2 ½ percent on their rates to us so in turn we need to do the same for our commercial garbage. They locked in on this 2 ½ percent for the next three years. Councilmember Oliver asked how long have we had a contract with Republic and Mr. Tentrup stated since 2019. Mr. Tentrup stated that Republic had the option to increase rates the last 3 years but did not do so. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AWARDING CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES TO REPUBLIC SERVICES:**

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to consider awarding contract extension for the commercial solid waste services to Republic Services. Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa showed a chart to give an example of what a bill would look like going through the City to use Republic Services as opposed going to Republic directly. Councilmember Oliver asked if this is to get an extension. Michael Tentrup said yes this will be for 3 years because you want a long-term deal as opposed to swapping 70 dumpsters every year. Councilmember Oliver asked when you looked before for other companies was Republic Services the best choice. Michael Tentrup said yes out of the three they looked at previously they were the cheapest and the best in what they offered. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if we extend the contract would they go up on their prices throughout the length of the contract. Mr. Tentrup stated that they would, it would be 2 ½ percent each year of the contract. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**AUTHORIZE ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE CURB**

**REPLACEMENT ON WOODLAWN AND KENT:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to authorize engineer to advertise for bids for the curb replacement on Woodlawn and Kent. Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. City Manager D.E. Sosa introduced Jeremy Mitchell who has done engineer work for the City through Soutex and he is going to briefly explain what we are going out for bid for. This project it to reconstruct the concrete curbs along Kent and to finish out Woodlawn. If you have driven out there you can see that they have bowed up and the drainage isn't working properly so this is to go out and fix that for those two stretches of the roadway.

Councilmember Mark McAdams asked if this is the whole extension of Kent from

Monroe to Hogaboom. Mr. Mitchell stated no it only goes up to Van Buren. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**AUTHORIZE THE REPLAT OF THE CORNER LOT ON ROOSEVELT AND COOLIDGE. SUB-DIVIDING FROM 1 LOT TO 2 LOTS FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to authorize the replat of the corner lot on Roosevelt and Coolidge. Sub-dividing from 1 lot to 2 lots for single family homes. Councilmember Oliver seconded. Building Official Don Pedraza then stated that this request is from Sandoval Elite Custom Homes, they came to Council last year when they had the same request for the lot next to this one. Mr. Pedraza stated that all the parameters are met and that the Planning and Zoning has no problems with this request at all. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSS CHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:** Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas requested to have this item put on the agenda and Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated in the charter the basic qualifications for running for office are being a citizen of the United States of America, qualifying elector, and a resident of the City of Groves for six months. These are the same qualifications for the City Marshall, The Board of Adjustments and City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated that the qualifications for Planning and Zoning is a little outdated and should line up with the qualifications for the other Boards especially in regards to not having to be a tax payer. Other City's that do not require you to pay property taxes are Nederland, Port Arthur, Orange, Beaumont and Vidor. Councilmember Rob Vensel then asked City Attorney James Black what would we have to do to change the wording for the qualifications to run for The Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Black then stated that the requirements for the Planning and Zoning Commission are in the Code of Ordinances so it would just need to have action by Council. Councilmember Paul Oliver then asked that if the Planning and Zoning Commission is the only board that has the stipulation that you must be a tax payer for the City of Groves. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated yes. Councilmember Rob Vensel then asked if a request to change the Code of Ordinance for qualifications for The Planning and Zoning Commission can be put on the next agenda. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that we can in fact put it on the next agenda.

**INVOICES:** City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$159,916.88 as follows:

Bearcom Operating LLC	Speaker and Radio Installation at New Fire Station.	16,279.15
City of Port Arthur	Sludge disposal (1,900); Partial Jan/Feb 2022 Landfill fees (17,085).	18,985.00
Discovery Information Technologies Inc.	Camera system for security at the New Fire Station.	12,656.00
Discovery Information Technologies Inc.	Cabling for the New Fire Station.	30,325.00
DXI Industries Inc.	Wastewater Plant Chemicals.	6,270.00
Houston Poly	Trash bags for water office.	5,058.00
Joiner Architects	Architect payment for construction of the New Fire Station.	12,265.76
Lawco	Final Payment for site work at Indorama Fields.	10,000.00
Mes/Four Alarm	Hose racks for New Fire Station.	6,614.73
Northstar Industries	Dezurik manual valve overhaul (5,750); removal and Installation (6,900). Public Works.	12,650.00
Texas Correctional Industries/Metal Div.	Office desks and chairs for New Fire Station.	12,574.81

Republic Services	Peace and Dignity, new home, and demolition. 4748 Beaumont, 3211 Canal, 3824 Charles, 3429 Graves, 3801 Dunn, 5311 Grant, 4700 Martha, 3328 Pure Atlantic, 5905 25 <sup>th</sup> , Monroe Indian Springs, 6762 Jefferson, 2730 Montrose, 5120 Simpson, 5252 Twin City, 4401 Lincoln, 3251 Woodlawn, 6230 Terrell, 4260 Wilson. (9,336.20). Sludge Disposal 2/1/22-2/28/22 (6,902.23)	16,238.4
TOTAL		159,916.88

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$159,916.88 and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas then asked for questions and Councilmember Oliver asked about the \$30,325 for Cabling and what does all that cover. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud stated it is for strictly IT purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if all the charges for the Fire Station were from the loan we took out. Chief Billeaud stated that yes it was all budgeted for. Councilmember Paul Oliver then asked about the final payment for Indorama and if the fields are complete. City Manager D.E. Sosa said they are done and this is the final payment for being able to get the drainage correct so the fields are able to drain properly. There were no other questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugas thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

  
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Mayor Chris Borne

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk