

A special meeting of the Groves City Council was held December 22, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Rob Vensel, and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and led the prayer and pledge of allegiance. He welcomed the all attendees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL (CITY MANAGER) AS PROVIDED FOR IN V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.074. CITY MANAGER OBJECTS TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND REQUESTS A PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Borne stated that City Manager D.E. Sosa has asked to review his proposed severance and retirement package in a closed session. Mayor Borne then stated that if Council agrees to that then we will excuse ourselves to a closed session and that session will be restricted only to questions regarding the severance and retirement package. Mayor Borne also stated that anything other than the severance and retirement package Mr. Sosa has requested to be in an open meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion that Council has an Executive Closed Session to discuss the parameters of Mr. Sosa's retirement package and Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Motion passed with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver and Councilmember Rob Vensel for the motion and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas against it.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION: Council went into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to accept the separation agreement between the City and the City Manager and Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then stated that since the Separation Agreement was passed and agreed upon then we will skip down to item IX. And void the rest of the agenda items.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER AND TAKE A RECORD VOTE: Mayor Borne then made a motion to appoint Fire Chief Lance Billeaud as the Interim City Manager and Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne then stated that Chief Billeaud is a respected member of this City and also a great point of contact for all of our employees. Mayor Borne then stated that Chief Billeaud has been in a management roll, is very well liked and trusted. Mayor Borne also stated that he believes that all of the support staff will do a great job at helping him cope with what we have coming and he truly believes he will do whatever is needed for the City. Councilmember Rhonda Dugas asked if this is ok with Chief Billeud and Chief Billeaud stated that he will take it on. Chief Billeaud stated that it is hard for him to talk right now because of what's going on but he believes that it will be a smoother transition with somebody from the City and also being that he has a very good rapport with all of the department heads all the way down to the lowest guy on the line. Mayor Borne asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Rob Vensel and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas all in favor of this motion.

City Manager D.E. Sosa then thanked all of the people who came to the meeting to support him and that support will make for the best Christmas he has ever had.

We then had some citizen comments:

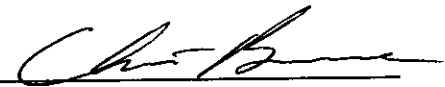
Pete Konidis of 7121 Hayman St stated that he has worked for the City for 31 years and that he is on his way out as a retiree. Mr. Konidis thanked Mr. Sosa for everything he has done and stated that he appreciates him always being there and having everyone's back.

Brad Bailey of 5198 Jackson Blvd stated that he spent about 20 years in Mayor Borne's seat and spent 18 of those years next to Mr. Sosa. Mr. Bailey then stated that he sees that a lot of diversion has trickled down from national level to State and County level to now City level and it's appalling. Mr. Bailey asked Council to take a long look in the mirror and figure it out because Mr. Sosa has spent 20 years here giving everything he has.

Rachel Spalding of 5401 Karen Ave stated that she has known Mr. Sosa and his family for 27 years and she has seen him manage not only this City but other Cities as well. Mrs. Spalding then stated that she has served with him in the Rotary Club, numerous civic clubs, church rodeos and livestock shows and he has been in the mud right along with everyone else. Mrs. Spalding then stated that there are about five people in her life that she puts in this category and she does not know anyone who had more integrity than City Manager D.E. Sosa. Mrs. Spalding also stated that Mr. Sosa is fair, loving, kind, a Christian man and he always does what is right.

Ronnie Boneaux Director of the Chamber of Commerce of 4601 Clermont stated that he would like to thank D.E. Sosa. Mr. Boneaux then stated that he took the Director job for the Chamber 16 years ago and working with Mr. Sosa has been exceptional. Mr. Boneaux then thanked Mr. Sosa for the 16 wonderful years he was able to work with him.

Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their comments and adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk