

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held January 17, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Paul Oliver and Councilmember Rob Vensel in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and then Councilmember Vensel led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 City Council Meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and there were none.

Mayor Borne then asked if there were any citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING TO LISTEN TO EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT CANDIDATES PRESENT TO COUNCIL VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON TO ANSWER QUESTIONS: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider setting a date for a Special Meeting to listen to Executive Recruitment Candidates present to Council via zoom or in person to answer questions and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk suggested to Council that we change this to a Work Session as opposed to a Special Meeting which will allow more flexibility for discussion. Mr. Monk then stated that this would just take an amendment to the motion. Councilmember Vensel made an amendment to his motion to consider having a Work Session instead of a Special Meeting and Councilmember Dugas seconded. HR Director Stephanie Gaspard stated that this will just be a Work Session where they will present to Council and talk about their company. Council will be able to talk to them and ask questions. Mayor Borne asked Mrs. Gaspard about her ideas for dates and Mrs. Gaspard stated that the proposals are due on January 25<sup>th</sup>, she will then have to validate which proposals are done correctly and then give those company's time to make travel arrangements. With all of these factors Mrs. Gaspard suggested maybe around February 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> would be a good time for the Work Session. Mayor Borne suggested making it February 9<sup>th</sup> that way it would give Council room to potentially have a closed session to discuss the requirements of the City Manager. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked if we would be talking to all of the companies at one meeting and Mrs. Gaspard stated that we would be. Councilmember Oliver asked how many companies have we reached out to and Mrs. Gaspard stated that she had emailed six companies but that she has also put it in the paper to run two consecutive Thursdays. Councilmember Rob Vensel then amended his motion to include February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. and

Councilmember Dugas seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REPLAT FOR 3648 MAIN AVE:** Councilmember Rhonda Dugas made a motion to consider approval of a replat for 3648 Main Ave. and Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams seconded. Building Official Don Pedraza stated that there were some violations to the set backs but that the Zoning Board of Adjustments recommends Council going ahead and approving this replat. Mr. Pedraza also stated that the building is so old that they aren't sure if there were any variances for these set backs when the building was built. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADMENDMENT OF THE GAME ROOM AND GAMING MACHINE ORDINANCE:** Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider setting a date for a Joint Public Hearing for the amendment of the Game Room and Gaming Machine Ordinance and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Vensel amended his motion to add the date of February 13, 2023 immediately following the City Council Meeting and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider setting a date for a Joint Public Hearing for the Food Truck Ordinance and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Councilmember Dugas amended the motion to include February 13, 2023 immediately following the City Council Meeting and Councilmember Vensel seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSS AND APPROVE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT RESOLUTION:** Councilmember Rhonda Dugas made a motion to discuss and approve Hazard Mitigation Grant Resolution and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that around the year 2000 FEMA came out with a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and it started here with the City around 2004 with Dale Jackson and George Newsome. Mr. Billeaud stated that this is a regional grant that includes Jefferson County, Orange County and Hardin County that we have been working on this for the last three years. Mr. Billeaud then stated that what they are asking us to do as of now is to adopt the Resolution to accept the funding for it. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud also stated that he does not know how much funding is

or what it will be disbursed to yet and he also wanted Council to know that is at no cost to the City. Finance Director Lamar Ozley then stated to Council that there is a Grant Administrator that is also provided by FEMA and is at no cost to the City. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$387,944.42 as follows:

Brenntag Southwest, INC.	Water Plant Chemicals. (25% Sodium Hydroxide).	7,312.40
City of Port Arthur	Landfill fees. (11/22/22-12/22/22).	15,160.00
Epic Engineering, LLC	Endress + Hauser Ultrasonic Flow Meter and Labor.	18,893.64
Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and Diesel for 12/1/2022-12/31/2022.	19,644.17
Groves Chamber of Commerce	First Quarter funding (10/1/22-12/31/22) payment from hotel/motel Tax funds for acting as Tourist and Visitors Bureau.	15,000.00
Hach	1-year renewal for a service contract for service, parts, labor and travel time.	5,775.00
Jefferson County Clerk	November 8, 2022 Joint Election with Jefferson County Expenses.	18,433.62
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw Water Purchased.	38,590.70
Motorola Solutions	New radio system for New Patrol Units.	11,390.00

Republic Services	Peace and Dignity Program- 5521 Marion, 7048 Washington, 6150 39 <sup>th</sup> , 6528 Washington, 6255 Garner, 6398 Monroe, Monroe-Indian Springs (New Home), 4710 Martha, 3815 Pure Atlantic, 6657 Washington (Demo.), 5905 25 <sup>th</sup> , 4970 Wilson.	6,294.11
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster collection for December 2022.	6,399.03
Texas Pride Utilities	CLFRF Payment #2 for Pipe Bursting Project.	225,051.75

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$387,944.42 and Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Rhonda Dugas asked how much the first payment was for Texas Pride Utilities and Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that was around \$320,000. There were no other questions and motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION IN CLOSED SESSION RELATED TO PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION PURSUANT TO TEX. GOVT. CODE ANN. SEC. 551.071: Mayor Borne excused Council to go to Executive Session at 5:26 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION: Council went into Executive Session at 5:26 p.m. and reconvened at 5:47 p.m.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember Comments and Councilmember Dugas asked if we could start working on an Ordinance for the signs that people put on poles throughout the City.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

U

U

U