

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2023 JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 Joint Public Hearing as written and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2023 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne asked Council if everyone received a copy and all of Council stated they have received the minutes.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and the first report was from Event Coordinator Libbie LeJeune regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Back to School Blast. Ms. LeJeune informed Council that the upcoming Back to School Blast will be August 5, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Groves Activity Building. Ms. LeJeune then informed Council that the changes made to this year's event were made due to feedback from the vendors we had last year. Ms. LeJeune is hoping that each child who attends will receive a bag with school supplies thanks to the local businesses who have donated. This year the event will be set up inside with promotional and informational booths only along with face painting, basketball, foosball, ping pong, board games and crafts. In the parking lots will be the Whataburger Game Truck along with the MegaTronix Mobile Media Truck.

The local VFW then gave a report regarding Korean War Armistice agreement that was signed on July 27, 1953.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments and there were none.

**SET A DATE FOR A SECOND WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS A JOINT POLICE AND FIRE TRAINING FACILITY TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE GROVES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Councilmember Vensel made a motion to set a date for a second workshop to discuss a joint police and fire training facility to be constructed at the Groves Wastewater Treatment Plant and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud introduced John Hudson as a representative from the Police Department. Councilmember Rhonda Dugas asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if he has looked into the wetlands issue and Mr. Monk stated that he is currently looking into it and will have information for the Work Session. Councilmember Vensel amended his motion to set the date for July 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH SLAVIN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider setting a date for a Special Meeting regarding an Executive Session with Slavin Management Consultants and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Councilmember Dugas amended her previous motion to include July 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON COUNTY TO ALLOW PRECINCT TWO TO ASSIST THE CITY WITH 2023 STREET PROGRAM:** Councilmember Vensel made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement with Jefferson County to allow Precinct Two to assist the City with 2023 Street Program and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud informed Council that this is a standard agreement that we have done for many years with them. Mr. Billeaud then stated that they come in with their equipment and we provide the materials to help with the streets. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FYE 2023 AUDIT SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE CITY AUDITOR:** Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to discuss and consider approval of FYE 2023 Audit Services Contract with the City Auditor and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that the current auditor brought in an RFP four years ago and part of that contract included a 3-year fixed term which they have just completed. That contract also included two mutual 1-year options for this year and next year. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Ozley if he has ever had any issues with them and Mr. Ozley stated that he

is more than satisfied with their work. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE ENGAGEMENT OF ATTORNEY MELISSA H. CRANFORD TO ASSIST THE CITY OF GROVES WITH NEGOTIATION, DRAFTING AND PREPARATION OF THE GROVES PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 1905 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to approve the engagement of Attorney Melissa H. Cranford to assist the City of Groves with negotiation, drafting and preparation of the Groves Professional Firefighters Association, Local 1905 Collective Bargaining Agreement and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that he has reviewed the agreement and it seems to be in order. Mr. Monk also stated that talking with HR Director Stephanie Gaspard, this in line with what she thinks is best for the City. Councilmember Dugas asked if we have worked with this Attorney before and Mrs. Gaspard informed Council that we have. Mrs. Cranford did in fact review the contract for the Collective Bargaining last year and also assisted with the Employee Handbook that we recently updated. Mrs. Gaspard assured Council that Mrs. Cranford specializes with negotiations so this is her area of expertise. Mrs. Gaspard then informed Council that this would be only if the City absolutely needed her expertise. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-08 GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAME ROOM AND GAMING MACHINES AT 6900 32<sup>ND</sup> ST.: Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2023-08 granting a Specific Use Permit for Game Room and Gaming Machines at 6900 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked Building Official Don Pedraza if this specific address has complied with everything that was asked of them by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Mr. Pedraza stated he has. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the Caption as follows "An Ordinance authorizing a Specific Use Permit for Gaming Machines and Game Rooms at 6900 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Fuel Plus 3, N 105' of LT 5&6, BLK 4, Melrose; providing that no other portions of the Zoning Ordinance shall be affected hereby; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; and providing an effective date." There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-09 GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAME ROOM AND GAMING MACHINES AT 2600 MAIN AVE.:

Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2023-09 granting a Specific Use Permit for Game Room and Gaming Machines at 2600 Main Ave. and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the Caption as follows "An Ordinance authorizing a Specific Use Permit for Gaming Machines and Game Rooms at 2600 Main Ave., K-A-G Jubilee Super Stop #3, Legal Description: LTS 14&15 TR2, Garden Farms; providing that no other portions of the Zoning Ordinance shall be affected hereby; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; and providing an effective date." Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked building official Don Pedraza if the owners of this location have complied with what the Planning and Zoning Committee requested to be fixed. Mr. Pedraza stated that they did fix everything. Councilmember Dugas then asked if they removed the junk vehicle that Code Enforcement has been trying to get removed for a while and Mr. Pedraza stated that it is still there. Councilmember Oliver stated that if they can't comply with this request then what makes us think they will comply with the Game Room and Gaming Ordinance. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Pedraza if this Specific Use Permit was denied then would they have to start the application process over again and Mr. Pedraza stated they would. Councilmember Dugas then stated that the problem is that the time limit has been known and exhausted. There were no further questions and the motion unanimously failed.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-10 GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAME ROOM AND GAMING MACHINES AT 2610 MAIN AVE.:

Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2023-10 granting a Specific Use Permit for Game Room and Gaming Machines at 2610 Main Ave. and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the Caption as follows "An Ordinance authorizing a Specific Use Permit for Gaming Machines and Game Rooms at 2610 Main Ave., EPuff & Smoke Vape, LTS 14&15 TR 2, Garden Farms; providing that no other portions of the Zoning Ordinance shall be affected hereby; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; and providing an effective date." Building Official Don Pedraza informed Council that the same gentleman owns both 2600 Main Ave. and 2610 Main Ave. Councilmember Oliver then asked Mr. Pedraza does this mean the same infractions are still there since the two locations are right next to each other and Mr. Pedraza stated that was correct. Mayor Borne asked if they fixed everything else that was asked and Mr. Pedraza stated they still have a broken window. There were no further questions and the motion unanimously failed.

INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$209,861.88 as follows:

AED Center	AED packages for City Buildings.	10,765.26
Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	34,580.00
City of Port Arthur	Landfill fees 4/26/23 – 5/25/23 and 5/26/23 – 6/23/23.	34,124.50
DXI Industries, INC.	Chlorine for Water Plant.	6,861.60
DXI Industries, INC.	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	9,646.20
Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and diesel for June 2023.	21,337.73
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased May 2023.	22,680.46
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased June 2023.	22,301.84
Philpott Motors	Patch truck repair and Police Car repairs.	8,399.54
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster service May 2023.	6,513.13
Republic Services	Sludge disposal June 2023.	7,486.31
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster service June 2023.	8,078.31
Smart's Truck & Trailer Equipment, INC.	Garbage truck repairs.	5,981.88

Vantex Chemical,  
LLC


Sodium Hydroxide used for PH adjustment.

11,105.1


Councilmember Dugas asked about the AED line item and if this payment was for upkeep of them and Interim City Manager Billeaud explained that there was a delay in the invoice for the AED's so this was the actual purchase payment. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asks how many buildings have the AED's and Mr. Billeaud stated that every City Building has them. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Borne then stated that he attended "Groves Coffee" at Pizza Artista and it was a wonderful turnout. Mayor Borne also stated that Mrs. Letha Knaus did a wonderful job organizing it and the breakfast pizza was fantastic. There were no further Councilmember Comments.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk