

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held October 9, 2023 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 welcomed the attendees. Councilmember Dugas then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2023 Special Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: Councilmember Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023 City Council Meeting and Joint Public Hearing as written and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 Special Meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 PLANNING & ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that all of Council received a copy of the minutes.

Mayor Borne then asked if we had any reports and Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud informed everyone about the Open House at the Groves Fire Station on October 11, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There were no further reports.

Mayor Borne then asked for citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER APPROVAL ON AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROVES AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURIST CENTER: Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider approval on an agreement between the City of Groves and the Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Center. Councilmember Dugas seconded. Councilmember Dugas expressed that sending monthly statements from the Chamber to the City instead of quarterly should be added to the contract.

Councilmember Dugas also stated that we should add the yearly financial statement for the Pecan Festival to be sent to Council. Mayor Borne asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if Council agrees to add these can we approve this item to be with corrections as stated and Mr. Monk stated we can. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTING AN INTERIM CITY MARSHAL UPON RETIREMENT OF MARSHAL REYNOLDS: Councilmember Vensel made a motion to discuss and consider appointing an Interim City Marshal upon retirement of Marshal Reynolds and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Marshal Reynolds informed Council that he will be retiring at the beginning of January and wanted to make a recommendation for an Interim City Marshal. Marshal Reynolds then gave Council a brief history of Sergeant Chris Robin and all of his accomplishments. Marshal Reynolds informed Council that he has no reservations with endorsing Sergeant Chris Robin for the position of Interim City Marshal. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked Marshal Reynolds what date he is planning on retiring and Marshal Reynolds stated January 5, 2024. Marshal Reynolds then informed Council that Mr. Robin wouldn't be named Interim City Marshal until after his retirement date. Marshal Reynolds is trying to get extra time with Mr. Robin to be able to train and guide him before his actual retirement. Sergeant Robin thanked everyone for even being considered for this position and also thanked Marshal Reynolds for his kind words. Mayor Borne asked if Sergeant Robin does step in as Interim City Marshal would his spot still be available if he does not win the next election and Marshal Reynolds stated he will be able to go back to his current position. There were no further questions. Councilmember Vensel amended his motion to consider appointing Sergeant Chris Robin as Interim City Marshal upon retirement of Marshal Reynolds and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SELECTING A CANDIDATE FOR CITY MANAGER: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to discuss and consider selecting a candidate for City Manager and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne stated that this was a long and thoughtful process for Council and it is the one thing they have worked the best with. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams amended his motion to consider Kevin Carruth as the candidate for City Manager. Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Carruth if he accepts this position and he stated he does accept. Mr. Carruth expressed his excitement for being able to work with everyone. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-16 GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAME ROOM AND GAMING MACHINES AT 2600 MAIN AVE.:

Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2023-16 granting a Specific Use Permit for Game Room and Gaming Machines at 2600 Main Ave. and councilmember Oliver 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, 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." Mayor Borne stated that Planning and Zoning has given Council the recommendation to approve this Ordinance. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-17 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 2023-17 granting a Specific Use Permit for Game Room and Gaming Machines at 2610 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 2610 Main Ave., EPuff & Smoke Vape, 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 Borne stated that Planning and Zoning has given Council the recommendation to approve the Ordinance. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$662,868.39 as follows:

BECK Harold Beck & Sons, INC.	Rotary Actuator on filter #1 replaced.	9,562.52
Brenntag Southwest, INC	Sodium Hydroxide used for PH adjustment.	9,385.47
Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	33,181.60
City of Port Arthur	Landfill fees. (8/28/23-9/25/23).	15,475.00

Coburn Supply Co., INC	4" and 10" repair clamps for water lines.	11,844.10
DXI Industries	Chlorine for Water Plant.	6,861.60
Gulf Coast	Pay request 1 & 2; Phase III 2023 Road Improvements.	236,468.00
Gulf Coast	HP cold mix asphalt street patch material.	5,154.56
Jefferson County Appraisal District	4 th Quarter Payment.	12,907.71
Leavins Engineering & Design, LLC	August 2023 GLO Phase III Engineering Services.	9,800.00
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased.	55,967.56
Messer, Fort & McDonald	Collective bargaining legal fees.	6,468.51
Moody Brothers	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	9,780.00
Motorola Solutions	3 handheld radios with accessories for Utilities.	9,129.30
Motorola Solutions	5 handheld radios with accessories for Solid Waste.	15,215.50
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster collection for August 2023.	8,169.47
Rural Pipe & Supply, INC.	Culverts for stock in yard.	5,026.00
Sabine Equipment	Georgia Lift Station #4 pump.	7,891.50


Sabine Equipment	Clarifier #2 Gearbox Repair.	9,800.00
Sabine Equipment	Georgia lift station #4 and #5 chopper pumps.	41,966.00
TRP Construction Group, LLC.	Lincoln Ave. street striping.	38,560.00
Texas Pride Utilities	Pay application #8 for 2022-2023 CLFRF Pipe Bursting.	24,199.20
Texas Pride Utilities	Pay application #9 for 2022-2023 CLFRF Pipe Bursting.	80,055.00

Councilmember Vensel made a motion to approve the invoice list for October 9, 2023 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Mayor Borne asked how many more payments do we have for Gulf Coast for the road improvements and Public Works Director stated that we still have the final payment, the final payment will not be made until they finish their punch list. Mayor Borne also asked about the Collective Bargaining fees and Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that was for the Fire Department. Mayor Borne also asked about the two payments for Texas Pride Utilities and Utilities Supervisor Michael Tentrup stated that these are the final two payments and all that is left is the retainage. Councilmember Dugas asked about the clamps for water lines and Mr. Tentrup explained how the clamps work. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then called for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Dugas stated that she attended National Night Out and that was a lot of fun.

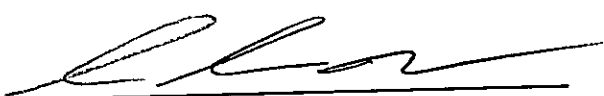
Councilmember Dugas stated she was also a judge at the gumbo cookoff and she really enjoyed that. Councilmember Vensel congratulated Sergeant Robin and Mr. Carruth on their appointments. Mayor Borne reminded everyone that the 54th Annual Pecan Festival is this weekend so please go out and support our city. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud wanted to thank staff for their help while he was the Interim City Manager. Mr. Billeaud also stated that he looks forward to working with Sergeant Robin and new City Manager Kevin Carruth. There were no further Council Comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

